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GSABJ Awards Gala recognizes journalists

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Sixth Annual Garden State Association of Black Journalists Awards Gala program, which was recently held on the campus of Rutgers University, recognized the finest scribes from across the state, in their effort to address the issues and concerns facing the black community.

City News, which garnered five awards, one being the "T. Thomas Fortune Award" — for Lifetime Achievement — was presented to its publisher, Dr. Henry Johnson and his wife Jan Edgerton-Johnson, for their steadfast 17-year commitment to uplift and encourage the black community.

Gilda Rogers, City News' managing editor received a first-place award for sports writing — "A Rose Who Grew," which was a profile on Eric Williams, whose ascent from a checkered past and the Hayes Homes projects in Newark led him to Boston, where he currently plays for the Celtics. Rogers took second-place in weekly feature writing with a story entitled, "A Rite of Passage."

Carl Chase, City News' business editor received first-place in weekly feature writing with a story entitled, "Just Took My Son's Life," which centered on the death of Earl Faison, who died while in the custody of the Orange police. He also received first-place in the business weekly category with a story entitled, "Lowering the Standards for Minority Businesses."

The Star Ledger's Kathy Barrett Carter, was named "Journalist of the Year," for her compelling story which brought racial profiling to the front page. Barrett's ongoing reporting that the New Jersey State Police targeted minorities led to Gov. Christie Whitman's firing of State Police Superintendent Col. Carl Williams. The Star Ledger team of Michael Raphael, Joe Donohue, Ron Maricco, King Boreas, Brian Donohue also received first-place for their reporting on "Racial Profiling."

Rev. Reginald Jackson received the "Community Service Award."

Impact, daily papers, under 150,000 circulation: I. Michael Synnors, City Schools Series, Home News Tribune.

Business News, daily papers less than 150,000: I. Michael Y. Park, "MLK Drive," Jersey Journal.

Business News, daily papers more than 150,000: I. Will Shamin, "Baseball Stadium," Asbury Park Press.

Breaking News, daily papers, more than 150,000: I. Dunstan McNichol, "Urban Schools Series," The Star Ledger.

Breaking News, daily papers less than 150,000: I. Rich Miller, Geniuxa Williams, Jim Goodman, Willie J. Smith, "Noted Pastor Dies," Trenton Times.

Editorial, daily papers, less than 150,000: I. George Amick, The Times of Trenton.

Editorial, daily papers over 150,000: I. Mark Lowery, "End Racial Profiling."

Opinion/over 150,000: I. Rose Simmons "Time to Depart From Tradition," Asbury Park Press.

Features/daily over 150,000: I. Steve Chambers, "God Built a House in Africa," The Star Ledger; Editorial: Cartoons: I. Jimmy Margulies, The Record.

Sports/daily less than 150,000: I. Duhan, "The Life and Times of John Chaney," The Courier Post.

CITY NEWS

NJ vs. Antoine dropped

Police brutality victim awaits his day in civil court



Lt Carlos Salomon, alleges he is a victim also of police brutality and came from Florida to support fellow Haitian immigrant, Max Antoine in a court case that Antoine called a conspiracy. By Gilda Rogers Staff Writer

NEWARK — On December 7, when the jury pool assembled in the state's case against Haitian immigrant, Max Antoine, 31, to the astonishing dismay of Antoine and his lawyer, Jean Larosiere, there in Superior Court room 604 was Phillip Rucker — one of the Irvington police officers accused by Antoine of brutally beating him.

Rucker was among the pool of prospective jurors waiting to be selected to seal Antoine's fate. On December 8, Larosiere asked for a change of venue fearing the selected jurors, although Judge Harold Pollack immediately dismissed Rucker, had possibly been tainted. His request was denied.

On December 9, prior to opening arguments the State of New Jersey made an offer to Antoine

to take part in the pretrial intervention program, which after one year would wipe clean the 100 percent conviction but I'll take 90 percent," said Larosiere. "This is what you call a conditional dismissal. After evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the case, they (prosecution) thought justice would best be handled not by a criminal case but a civil case. I had been telling them this all

along ... this was not a criminal case."

"Basically the crimes he was charged with were crimes that he could be entered into the pretrial intervention program," said Executive Assistant Prosecutor, Charlotte Smith. "He admitted on the record that, yes, he did provide the office with falsified (medical) records and did resist arrest, and all his allegations were false. The mugshots taken with no injuries were accurate."

Antoine, who, in accord with his lawyer was ready to prove with a long list of medical professionals that, indeed, the injuries he sustained are a result of the brutal beating — paralyzed from the waist down, brain trauma, blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, Antoine asserted that he never knew anything about the records being tampered with until the prosecution raised the issue. In regard to the "mugshots" taken of him on June 2, 1996, Antoine claims there were pictures taken in color and black and white which expose two different appearances.

"The pictures I saw of myself in color show all the bruises and cuts with all the blood there was everything on them," said Antoine. "The black and white you couldn't see like anything. They're (prosecution) trying to say I caused these injuries to myself."

Meanwhile, Antoine has filed a civil suit against the Irvington police department and township along with ENTAC Paramedic Association for damages to his body. "There are other scenarios to be examined," said Joe Fortunato, who will be representing Antoine in the civil trial, "regard to the medical records being tampered with."

Antoine did admit to resisting, which he deemed to be an unlawful arrest.

Black Minister's Council assess NJ State Troopers, a year in review



Rev. Reginald Jackson

TRENTON — A year in review, was the focus of the December 9 press conference called by The Black Ministers Council of New Jersey in the matter surrounding the revelations of the New Jersey State Police.

"As we come to the close of what has been an historic and tumultuous year," said the council's Executive Director Rev. Reginald Jackson, who is pastor of St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church in Orange. "To review and remind both the state leadership and citizens that there is unfinished work to be completed regarding the reform of the New Jersey State Police."

The following is a list of what Jackson deemed accomplishments:

The state of New Jersey is the first state to acknowledge that some of its troopers engage in racial profiling and has practiced discrimination in promotion and recruitment.

After an investigation by State Police Review Team a number of reforms have been proposed to end racial profiling and discrimination within the State Police.

Cameras have now been installed in State Police vehicles.

A new recruitment campaign to increase the number of minorities and females has begun and minorities who failed previous tests a host of reasons have been invited to reapply.

The State's Appeal of the Soto case has been dropped.

Indictments have been brought against troopers involved in the April 1998 shooting and who allegedly falsified records and practiced official misconduct.

For the first time in 75 years a new superintendent from outside the State Police has begun the process of reforming the agency.

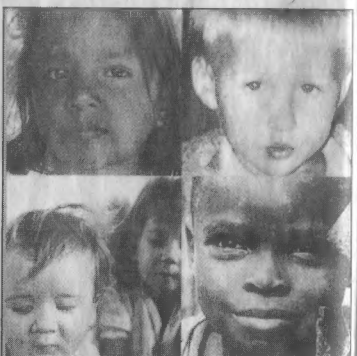
Racial profiling has been acknowledged as a national problem.

According to Jackson, the task to overhaul the systemic dealings of the State Police is not yet complete. The council would like to see complete and full disclosure of investigation of 10 other troopers for falsifying records and official misconduct.

Resolution to outstanding litigation brought by 13 minority troopers against the State Police. A bill sponsored by Senators Gormley and Martin, which was passed in the Senate on May 25, that requires State Police to report annually citizen complaints filed against state troopers has yet to be acted upon.

"This is now seven months later. It appears that the leadership of the Assembly has no intention of action on this legislation this session, which is irresponsible and sends a blunt message that citizens would not complain," said Jackson. "We call on the Assembly Speaker to post this bill for a vote during this session. If not tell the citizens why."

30 tons of food and 600 toys distributed to less fortunate



Faces of kids from Feed The Children organization

PERTH AMBOY — Feed The Children, a national relief organization delivered three semi-trailers of food and toys for needy families in Perth Amboy and Asbury Park on December 11. More than 60,000 pounds (30 tons) of food and other items, including about 600 new toys was distributed to families.

"Many families are in need of this type of supplement," said Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., Senior Pastor of The Cathedral-Second Baptist Church who invited Feed The Children's founder, The Rev. Larry Jones, to Perth Amboy to help provide food and aid to needy families. "Yes, we are getting people out of welfare but we are getting people out of poverty. This is our primary reason for existence... to provide help to the hurting, the homeless and the

hungry."

Items were also distributed at The Cathedral Assembly by the Shore in Asbury Park, where many needy families in New Jersey were able to benefit from the delivery. Churches, community organizations and area social services were also made aware of the available items.

Reverend Larry Jones was also the guest speaker on Sunday at The Cathedral-Second Baptist Church's 11:00 a.m. worship service. Feed The Children is an internationally respected Christian relief organization. For the past 20 years, the organization has played a critical role in the lives of children throughout the United States, and in developing countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America.

Down but not out, Crossroads Theatre vows to 'Play On'

Richard Khan, artistic director announces
fundraising campaign and on year sabbatical

NEW BRUNSWICK — "Play On," is not just another stellar performance being showcased at Crossroads Theatre — this year's Tony Award recipient for Outstanding Regional Theatre — but it also is the direction the acclaimed theatre, despite its financial woes, is taking.

Richard Khan, Co-founder and Artistic Director of Crossroads announced at the December 6 press conference that, although the theatre has accrued a sizable debt of \$12 million, it is not indicative of the turnaround the theatre is experiencing. And as of January 1, he will take a year sabbatical to rejuvenate and create a capital fundraising campaign to counter the debt.

A mainstay at the theatre for the past 22 years, Khan credited Crossroads' CEO and President, Dale Caldwell, who took over the reigns of the theatre in June and the return of Anne Robinson, Jr., in July as executive producer, along with new board members for the new and improved outlook.

"Since June 1999, the Crossroads Theatre Company's board of trustees has brought in a CPA (with manager level experience) and created a 'Big Five' accounting firms at the Board Treasurer," said Caldwell. He continued: "As well, the current board of trustees has raised more money than any board in recent years; of their \$400,000 debt-reduction goal for fiscal year 1999-2000, over \$200,000 has already been raised. Also, the board membership has recently been expanded by 75 percent, adding seven new board members."

Assembling a solid governing

infrastructure will enable Crossroads to continue to deliver the best in the performing arts.

"We are a company blessed; by the Governor's Award last year," said Khan. "Our last Broadway show — 'It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues' So in spite of what it has sometimes felt like and seemed, we are in a turnaround. Crossroads will never be undercapitalized again," he vowed.

"Play On," the Duke Ellington musical, which features the legendary actress/inger Leslie Uggans and no stranger to the stage, the incomparable Stephanie Mills, has been given a reprieve and will run through December 23. The play, which is playing at 95 percent capacity eight times a week, has exceeded the theatre's original box office projections and with less than 500 available tickets for the run of the show, it's a hot commodity.

Partnering with the NAACP in an all inclusive strategy to raise funds, Khan expressed during the press conference that Reginald Johnson, the president of the Metcalf/Edison branch of the organization will play a vital role in Crossroads' campaign by reaching out to all 44 chapters across the state.

Optimistic about the future of the company, Khan applauded the relationship between the theatre and the board of trustees.

"I think we have formed a model partnership between board and staff that is truly innovative for us in its synergy and direct link between the board with all of its expertise, and staff," said Khan. "It's promising and exciting, and from a business point of view, for an institution it turnaround, it makes a lot of sense."

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

NEW YORK — Ramapo College of New Jersey hosts an exhibit featuring the work of Judith Peck at Fordham University. Call (201) 684-7803 for information.

SHREWSBURY — The Monmouth County Park System offers an introduction course in gymnastics for the youngsters 6-10 at the Shrewsbury Gymnastics School through Dec. 18. Call (732) 842-4000 for information.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a trip to the Crossroads Theater. 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a group discussion on current events throughout the world. 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University's (NJCU) Department of Music holds an open audition for its spring production of "West Side Story" at Hepburn Hall. 5 p.m. (201) 200-3261.

BERKLEY HEIGHTS — The Sage, Inc. hosts a meeting for people who care for the elderly. 7 p.m. (908) 273-4528.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a course in creative arts. 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

NEWARK — Assemblyman William Payne and the City of Newark holds a winter coat donation drive at the Assemblyman's office through Dec. 18. 9 a.m. (973) 621-1400.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a discussion on alcohol use during the holidays. 3:45 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) presents Kwanzaa Fest '99 through Dec. 18. Call (888) GO-NJ-PAC or (973) 297-5834 for information.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts its annual holiday party. 5 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

NEWARK — The Newark Literacy Campaign, Inc. hosts a training session for reading volunteers at the Newark Public Library. 6 p.m. (973) 623-4001.

NEWARK — 1,000 Friends holds its "Friends of Education Luncheon" featuring guest speaker Dr. John Grisco, superintendent of Bergen County's Vocational School district at the Newark Club. 12 p.m. (973) 621-6351.

NEWARK — The Newark Public Library hosts a pre-Kwanzaa celebration. 6 p.m. (973) 733-7798.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a course in special design projects. 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers an introduction course in computer applications. 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

JAMESBURG — The New Jersey Chamber Commerce hosts its state chamber breakfast series at the Forge Gate Country Club. 8 a.m. (908) 989-7888.

NEW YORK — Chase Bank hosts a luncheon on community development in the '90s and beyond at the Newark club. 8:30 a.m. (973) 353-6153.

FREEHOLD — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the American Hotel. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

NEWARK — Women in Support Of The Million Man March (WOMMM), Inc. hosts a reception for renowned activist Winnie Mandela at the WISOMMM Marston. Call (973) 297-1275 for more information.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

SADDLE BROOK — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Holiday Inn. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

PRINCETON — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Princeton Country Club. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

NEW YORK — Black Women In Publishing (BWIP) hosts a book signing and reading from twenty-five black writers during Kwanzaa Fest '99 at the Jacob Javits Center through Dec. 20. Call (212) 904-4558 for information.

NEWARK — Black Cops Against Police Brutality (B-CAP) hosts a Pre-Kwanzaa Festival with featured speakers Winnie Mandela, Dick Gregory, and Rev. Al Sharpton at the Robert Treat Hotel. 4 p.m. (973) 256-5070.

BERKLEY HEIGHTS — Sage, Inc. hosts an open house of its adult health facility. 10 a.m. (908) 464-8217.

NEW YORK — The Studio Museum in Harlem hosts a pre Kwanzaa Family Day event. 2 p.m. (212) 864-4500.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

ISELIN — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Sheraton. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University's (NJCU) Women's Center hosts a group discussion on women raising their self-esteem. 4:30 p.m. (201) 200-3189.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University's (NJCU) Women's Center hosts a support group meeting for gays

and lesbians. 6 p.m. (201) 200-3189.

MAHWAH — Ramapo College of New Jersey hosts an exhibit featuring the works of sculptor Judith Peck at the school's Entrance Gallery. Call (201) 684-7802 for information.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a trip to other senior centers throughout the state. 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a course to learn excel spreadsheet. 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

NEW YORK — The Concordia Orchestra presents its sixth annual production of "Too Hot To Handle" at Avery Fisher Hall. 8 p.m. (212) 221-8391.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a trip to the Woodbridge Mall. 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts its Kwanzaa Celebration. 11 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a discussion on current events happening around the world. 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

ISELIN — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Hilton. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

SADDLE BROOK — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Saddle Brook Marriott. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

ISELIN — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Sheraton. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

EDISON — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Clarion Edison. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum presents "The Amazing Maze," an interactive puzzle for adults and children that offers unique opportunities for exploring. A walk through at the museum's main gallery. Call (973) 538-0454 for information.

Cancer Institute hosts a luncheon on breast cancer



NEW BRUNSWICK — The Cancer Institute of New Jersey recently hosted a breast cancer awareness luncheon for the female employees of the City of New Brunswick. Over 150 women participated in the event designed to educate women on ways to detect breast cancer at its earliest stages through breast self-examinations, regular clinical examinations and mammography. Joining in on the festivities are (l-r) Brian Denton of Pharmacia and Upjohn, Dr. William Hall, director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill.

Panasonic honored for contributions to the arts



SECAUCUS — Panasonic Consumer Electronics Company (PCEC) was recently honored with two Corporate Philanthropy Awards by the Community Foundation of New Jersey. The award, recognizing the firm's contributions to education and the arts, were received by Don Heelan (far right), president and CEO of PCEC, joining him are Nancy Healy (third right), president of the Community Foundation of New Jersey, Nancy Healy (left), president of Art Administrators of New Jersey, Anthony Migliaccio (second left), supervisor of Red Bank Regional High School, Sharon Ansale (center) of the Hudson County Science Fair and Keith Shevlin (second right), director of media relations for the Partnership of a Drug Free New Jersey.

Heroic employees honored by Union County



ELIZABETH — For Union County employees Roger Ligon, Sr. (second left) and Joseph Cucoli (second right), it was just common sense to help two lost children wandering around Nomahegan Park in Cranford after Hurricane Floyd left the area flooded. The men were helping relocate the Jersey Jazz by the Lake Festival when they spotted the boys. The boys were reunited with their grandfather safely and the men were chosen by the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the County Manager as Employees of the Month. Freeholder chairman Nick Soutari (right) and director of Parks and Recreation Charles Sigmund presented the award to the men.

NJCU youth organizer honored by USDI



JERSEY CITY — Gary Patinoch (second from right), co-director of New Jersey City University's (NJCU) AmeriCorps and New Jersey Youth Corps Programs, received the Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service from the United States Department of the Interior for his outstanding efforts in establishing The Jersey Explorer Children's Museum in East Orange. Joining Patinoch at the reception are (from right) wife Chris, Duery Felton, Jr., curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection of the National Park Service; Dr. Larry Carter, NJCU vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Carlos Hernandez, NJCU president; and Pamela West, director of the Museum Resource Center of the National Park Service.

Join
Mayor Sharpe James
& Members of the
Newark Municipal Council
for the Third Annual

Newark City Lights Christmas Tree Lighting

A Connection-Newark Project

December 16
Tree Lighting 5PM
Military Park

Featuring

- ★ The Newark Boys Choir
- ★ Weequahic High School Marching Band
- ★ Santa Claus
- Meet
- ★ New Jersey Nets Mascot "Sly"
- ★ Newark Bears Mascot "Rip N Ruppert"



Take NJ Transit into Newark Penn Station or Broad Street Station then enjoy a ride on "The Loop" to Military Park.



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Holiday Spirit.
Bring new or used coats &
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Salvation Army &
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NATIONAL BRIEF

MINISTER FARRAKHAN HOSTS JEWISH DELEGATION

(NNPA) — At the request of the Neturei Karta International Jewish community, Minister Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam, recently met with a high-level delegation of rabbis from New York. The historic meeting was held last month at Min. Farrakhan's Chicago home to begin dialogue between the two organizations.

Rabbi David Weiss, spokesman for the group and interpreter for senior Rabbi Moshe Beck, said the meeting was held to "clarify what is a Jew... and what our position is to all the nations of the world and specifically what our position is to the Nation of Islam and the revered Honorable Minister Farrakhan."

Explaining that orthodox Jews regret that many members of the Jewish faith have attacked and smeared Min. Farrakhan's name, Rabbi Weiss said the voice of the orthodox community has been silent or drowned out by the voice of Zionism. He said Zionism has placed itself in the seat of Judaism. For example, he said, many orthodox Jews do not agree with the establishment of the State of Israel and support liberation for the Palestinians and their land.

'FREE LEONARD PELTIER' PROTESTS END IN NATION'S CAPITAL

(NNPA) — Standing in formation on the "Sacred Circle" at Ellie B. Park in front of the White House, supporters of American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier held a vigil on Thanksgiving day to call for freedom and long worldwide demonstration for the release of the indigenous political prisoner.

Peltier was arrested in Canada in 1976 and sentenced to a life term in the United States for the 1975 murders of FBI agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler during a shootout on the Lakota Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Canadian prosecutor Paul Halpin, who represented the U.S. in the extradition process, is accused by pro-Peltier activists of manipulating testimony and fabricating evidence in the pursuit of Peltier. Since then, Halpin and several government officials have openly acknowledged Peltier's innocence, yet he has been repeatedly denied appeal, parole or pardon.

His next parole hearing is scheduled for December 2008 — 15 years away. Peltier, 55, is in poor health. He is currently suffering from complications related to two failed jaw surgeries, the last one almost killing him. The maxillo-facial surgeries have resulted in his inability to bite or chew food.

HUD FILES HOUSING DISCRIMINATION CHARGE AGAINST TWO NEW YORK LANDLORDS

(NNPA) — Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced that HUD has filed a housing discrimination charge against two New York landlords accused of evicting Ann O'Dea, a White grandmother, because she planned to occasionally care for her three-year-old biracial grandson.

Based on eyewitness testimony and evidence presented, HUD filed the charge against Laura and Agustin Craveiro, who are also White, under the federal Fair Housing Act.

The Craveiros deny O'Dea's allegations. Mrs. Craveiro told investigators she commenced the eviction action based on O'Dea's non-payment of rent. However, O'Dea said she stopped payment on her first rent check after Mrs. Craveiro told her to move out, but that the Craveiros still had her security deposit.

The housing discrimination charge filed against the couple carries civil penalties of up to \$44,000 plus monetary compensation for damages, humiliation, mental distress, loss of housing rights, attorney fees, and court costs if an Administrative Law Judge rules against them. If either side chooses to take the case to federal court, higher damages can be awarded.

People whom believe they have been harmed by housing discrimination can file complaints with HUD by calling 1-(800)-669-9777.

Maddox and Sharpton lead delegation to Princeville, N.C. for the holidays

By Eric Ture Muhammad

(NNPA) — After a purposeful trip to Princeville, North Carolina this past Thanksgiving, the United African Movement (UAM) and the National Action Network (NAN) have planned to return to the flood devastated community on Dec. 24.

Led by Attorney Alton H. Maddox Jr. and Reverend Al Sharpton respectively, UAM and NAN traveled to Princeville to provide dinners for hundreds of families left homeless, jobless and penniless after flood waters swallowed the town in mid-September.

"After meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus, he overheard some of the Princeville residents who attended in Washington say that this was going to be a very bad Thanksgiving because they were not in their homes," said Leola Maddox, UAM member and wife of Atty. Maddox. "So, Alton said it was a good idea first for everybody to come and adopt a family and seemly to come and have dinner with them to let them know that they are not in this struggle by themselves."

In late October, Atty. Maddox announced after meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington that the organization would press forward with the adopt-a-family program introduced by the Reverend Walter E. Fauntroy and that he would rally New Yorkers to donate food, clothes and other non-perishables for residents of the nation's oldest town.

Now residing in trailer parks more than 20 miles away from Princeville, the UAM/NAN caravan traveled nearly 500 miles from New York, weaving around a women's maximum security prison, to get to the trailer park now angrily referred to by its residents as "FEMA-ville."

FEMA is the acronym for Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The shantytown on wheels was constructed to accommodate the thousands of occupants displaced by the flood. The residents are now being charged to live there. FEMA and state officials have refused to comment on "FEMA-ville" was placed behind a maximum-security prison.

The UAM and NAN rented a trailer box truck to transport the food and other donations that were kept at Harlem's Cotton Club.

Thanksgiving holiday is the busiest travel time of all the year. Taking that into consideration, the organizations dispatched their volunteers accordingly.

"My intentions were to come down on Wednesday with this bus," said Lorraine Trent of UAM. "But, when I learned that we needed to go earlier I had plans and told Clara [Jones, another volunteer] I was ready."

Jones, a native of Princeville, traveled with Trent, Pat Dillshunt and Abdul Rahman Abdullah on Nov. 21, arriving the next day. Jones' sister, Verline Johnson, met them there. Together they continued to scout out Princeville and the immediate areas around the trailer park to make the event successful. Following close behind were Brother Umama, Mike Thompson, Dexter Mohammed and Arthur Vaughn who drove the food and supplies to the designated locations.

On Thanksgiving morning a service and rally was held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Pastored by Rev. Thomas Walker Sr., the church opened its doors to the Black Nationalist contingent and turned their social hall into a warehouse. The church kitchen was also utilized to heat food to be served to residents.



Rev. Al Sharpton and members of the National Action Network and the United African Movement plan to visit areas hit by Hurricane Floyd during the Christmas holidays.

dent.

"To look at my brothers and sisters from Princeville, some of them traveling 14 miles from their homes carrying nothing but the clothes on their backs. Some traveling 50 miles from home were made to do that so they could not return to their areas and build them back," said Reverend Kelly, assistant pastor at Ebenezer. "I was homeless and in a motel for three weeks. I go to the trailer park now, sometimes just to hug the people and let them know we care."

The congregation was addressed by Rev. Sharpton and Atty. Maddox. Then the group made its way to the trailer park and celebrated with the residents. Throughout the day and into the night, the UAM drummers could be heard beating

their liberating rhythms as area residents danced, ate and offered testimonies of their experience over the past three months. UAM elder Mother Franklin opened the program with libations poured to the ancestors asking their blessings on the foods and their efforts to bring relief to the people. John Walker served as master of ceremonies. *Some were seen by Ann Sinclair from the Cotton Club.*

"The people are very appreciative of all that everybody is doing, but they really need a lot of help," said Dillshunt. "We can't depend on government, we cannot ask the government to help us and we should not be begging them. We should be doing everything we can to help. These are our sisters and brothers. It is them today. It can be us tomorrow."

NAACP wants probe into deadly shooting

PITTSBURGH (AP) — NAACP officials said they will ask the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the shooting deaths last month of two black men by police.

Police killed William Stanley, 40, of Beltzhoover on Nov. 21 after a car chase that ended in Wilkinsburg, a borough adjacent to Pittsburgh. Gilbert Carwell, 38, of Pittsburgh was shot and killed by Homestead police Nov. 18 after police said he was lingering near the home of his estranged wife despite court orders.

Representatives of the Pittsburgh, Wilkesburg and Clairton branches said Wednesday they plan to ask for the investigation of both deaths.

"The public needs justification of what happened in each of these incidents," said Wilkinsburg NAACP president Antoinette Moss.

Stanley, who was unarmed, died several days after he was shot by police, who said he led them on a chase in a stolen car.

Police said they opened fire after he tried to run officers over and made "suspicious" movements. Four suburban police officers were placed on restricted duty because of their roles in the shooting.

Homestead police chased Carwell from his estranged wife's home and into an alley, where he was shot. They said Carwell was killed when he rushed an officer and his gun accidentally went off.

Homestead police Chief Mark Zuger declined to comment. Police chiefs from North Versailles, Wilkinsburg, Forest Hills and Churchill did not immediately return calls for comment.

The NAACP also asked that witnesses or anonymous tipsters come forward with any information they have about a shooting that occurred during a Thanksgiving football game in Garfield that killed Sidney Barlow, 35, of Garfield and injured his brother, Maurio Barlow, 42, of Allentown.

Both were trying to break up an argument when they were shot. Although roughly 150 people were at the game, police say they have had a hard time finding witnesses willing to come forward.

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A new you version of mind

Albion another year has come and gone. Was it a good year? Or was it a bad one? And the answer here depends upon how you look at it. What things did you learn about yourself to promote a better you going into the New Year, raise these questions and challenge all within the sound of my voice to take a look, as Mr. Mary J. Blige says, "Deep inside." And to come up with real honest answers. When in the last time you looked deep inside to discover what you're made of? Don't think we're trying to assess where you are in what appears often to be a convoluted state? One thing to agree on is this: life does appear to be one big unraveling mystery of events. And while you ponder your thoughts, I'd like to share some of mine with you. As I head into the New Year, I've certainly raised my level of consciousness and now I see life a whole lot clearer. Your level of consciousness dictates the life you've come to know — be it good or bad. However, void of good and bad life just is. And what it is up to you. And here you have the secret to life and living in two letters—*de*. Yes, I discovered by elevating my thoughts that I was able to let go of my fears and get rid of everything, materially speaking. I never thought was important. Now I enjoy living because I'm no longer weighed down by unnecessary hang-ups. I've replaced complacency with focus and determination, aligned myself with people overflowing with purpose and meaning, no longer do I want for anything, I just call it forth and own it — the true essence of believing. Action = believing = success in all that you do. Looking back over the past year, I've had many successes and see the new millennium as a continuum to build on what I've already accomplished. To make this world a better place in which to live, we must begin with self. We must work on improving who we are for the betterment of mankind. If you want a better life than you must create a better you. Yes, when we look back over the years as a race we've made tremendous strides. It is my hope that we continue to succeed in accomplishing the impossible. Race relations loom large as an issue going into this presidential race. It should be a top priority. I've had many successes and proportionate number of black men who find themselves locked up. Only action and believing that we as people can make a difference will equal success. That success must first start with self. Believing that you can do it. I've had many successes and this year with the same mundane thoughts, discover a new level of life, one that will serve to benefit others, but more important, one that will serve to benefit you in ways you never knew. It's time to do it, you create a new you for the sake of creating a better world to live on. The time is now!

Late crimes and fear mongers

By Peter N. Kirsanow

The season of demagoguery is upon us. With barely a year until the presidential election, issues that had escaped even Clinton Little's radar have suddenly become threats to the very survival of the Republic.

The usual suspects are hyper-ventilating about the need for tougher hate crime legislation. According to some, hate crimes, particularly those directed at racial minorities and gays, have reached epidemic proportions.

President Clinton, for example, asserts that "hundreds of Americans, like young Matthew Chapman in Wyoming or James Byrd in Texas, have been killed or injured simply because of who they are — because of their race, their faith, because they're gay." ... He claims stronger and broader hate crime legislation must be passed "for our own sanity and our own humanity and for what we owe to the rest of the world." Whew.

Speaking of sanity, a state normally divorced from politics, it may be helpful to consider whether racial hate crimes truly are a major problem in this country. After all, just because an issue is the subject of demagoguery does not necessarily mean that it is frivolous.

The Justice Department's most recent report on victimization, the National Crime Victimization Study of 1994, shows that the overwhelming majority of interracial crimes are committed by Whites against Blacks, but rather by Blacks against Whites. Indeed, nearly 90 percent of violent interracial crimes — murders, rapes, robberies, assaults — are committed by Blacks against Whites. The victimization statistics report that Blacks committed 1,140,670 violent crimes against Whites and Whites committed 135,260 violent crimes against Blacks.

More recent figures compiled by the Virginia-based New Century Foundation show that there are 17 million violent interracial crimes committed annually. Yet in

1997, only 4,105 were identified as interracial crimes under the Crimes Statistics Act of 1990. Therefore, hate crimes are just .002 percent of interracial crimes that have escaped even Clinton Little's radar have suddenly become threats to the very survival of the Republic.

While these figures do not diminish the reprehensible nature of crimes motivated by race, neither do they evoke images of rampant lynch mobs, incipient race wars, or imminent genocide.

The inconvenient fact that a Black person is 56 times more likely to commit a violent crime against a white person than vice versa does little to dampen the artificial hysteria of the racial entrepreneurs of the political class. And of course, contrary to conventional wisdom, reside on the left. It is imperative that you stop minorities toward forward racism. For without a large minority turn-out, the electoral prospects for Democrats are bleak.

Consequently, these hustlers exploit liberal White guilt and unfounded fears of racial violence to push a political agenda. Facts are mere speed bumps on the road toward racial enmity sufficient to infect minority turn-out.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle suggests Republicans are racist for questioning the nomination of the ethnically-charged, anti-gay, neo-Nazi, Ambassador to New Zealand, Maxine Waters raises against racial oppression Senators. President Clinton worries that the rejection of Lonnie White for a District Court judgeship may have racial overtones.

Indecent racial rhetoric is bad enough coming from a lunatic handing out flyers on a street corner. It doesn't need the megaphone of a big political.

Peter N. Kirsanow, a labor and union attorney in Cleveland, Ohio, is chairman of the Center for New Black Leadership.

By Richard Muhammad

When the Rev. Jesse Jackson went to Decatur, Ill., urging that seven students expelled for fighting be re-admitted to school, media slings and arrows were launched. The high-profile rights leader's activism was attacked by pundits, media and critics as another example of Jesse's "never met a mike he didn't like" syndrome. They charge that the good reverend was hogging the spotlight.

Whether you like Rev. Jackson or not the media attacks on him are troubling and again point to how the "mainstream press" continues to question the integrity of Black people, and it needs to stop.

In this case, it was Rev. Jackson. But, other attacks included smearing Min. Louis Farrakhan, of the Nation of Islam, with the false charge that somehow the Million Man March was a pipe dream conjured up by his ego and not issues, and former pro basketball player Dennis Rodman, whose lifestyle was accused of hurting his teammates — though no rebounded better than him and no one could stop the Chicago Bulls.

The bottom line of the attacks is that high profile blacks — especially leaders not sanctioned by the white establishment — have no integrity and their actions are more about themselves than a cause or mission bigger than themselves.

After all, integrity would mean that blacks have a sense of higher purpose and selflessness that contradicts the "Blacks have no souls" lie historically used to justify slavery, exploitation and mistreatment. Animals are not reborned better than higher purpose. So, Black leaders must be thoroughly checked for moral contradictions — whether real or imagined. Ironically, America's founding fathers' slaveholding and sexual elitists are icons of virtue. Any shortcomings are reflections of the times and not their moral failures.

The danger of these attacks is not only the leader's reputation, but they can also lead to physical threats and government harassment. Over a third of the high school students stayed home after Rev. Jackson talked about bringing the expelled students to school. The students stayed home and heavy

By Manning Marable

The fundamental issue that will define U.S. politics in the first decade of the twenty-first century is the spiraling growth of inequality in American life.

One-hundredth of the population is not new in U.S. society, and has always existed. What is "new" is the degree of income stratification and class polarization we are now experiencing, which is really unique in the history of the Robber Barons of the nineteenth century's Gilded Era.

Most Americans know that household incomes are sharply stratified by race. For example, in 1998, the median household income for African Americans was \$23,351, only 60 percent of the median white household income. And according to a recent report by United For A Fair Economy, "Shifting Fortunes," the average white household in 1998 had \$18,000 in financial wealth (net worth minus equity in owner-occupied housing). By contrast, the average African American household possessed a grand total of two dollars.

But these statistics don't reveal the growing class stratification that in many ways cuts across racial boundaries. Alan Watts, director of the Center for Religion and American Public Life, recently observed in the New York Times that "the 1990s will be remembered as a time of Reaganism without Reagan." During the decade, "the incomes of the best-off Americans have risen twice as fast as those of middle-class Americans." Back in 1980, the average top 1 percent of the country's salary was 42 times higher than the median income of a factory worker. By 1998, the top executives were taking home 419 times more than factory workers.

Although Wolfe is not a political progressive, he makes some excellent points about the growing class divide that separates Americans from the wealthy. The fact that Americans hope to become rich does not mean that they admire the rich," Wolfe states. Corporate executives, who are the top 1 percent, and perks deeply trouble people because such rewards have become disconnected from the effort that go into earning them. "The upper one percent of all U.S. households now has a greater combined net wealth than the bottom ninety-five percent of all households."

Most working Americans resent all this, because through the past decade, they know that they are working harder and for longer hours, but their wages are smaller than a decade ago. Last August, the Economic Policy Institute reported that in 1998, the median inflation-adjusted earnings of the average worker were 3.1 percent lower than in 1989. Six out of ten U.S. workers earn either the same or less than they did ten years ago. The Economic Policy Institute also notes that the typical married couple family in the U.S. worked a total of 247 more hours in 1998 than in 1989. That is six additional weeks of work for less income.

The other dimension of income and class stratification is what is happening within the working class itself. There is increasing two-tiered stratification, a growing division

Opinion

Black integrity: The media's favorite target

security because of threats to harm Rev. Jackson. With the media painting him as an outsider and opportunist, it is easier for Whites to justify threatening and hurting him. Likewise, news reports led to a four-year \$17 million federal probe of former Agricul-

The bottom line of the attacks is that high profile blacks — especially leaders not sanctioned by the white establishment — have no integrity and their actions are more about themselves than a cause or mission bigger than themselves.

ture Secretary Mike Espy that ended with his acquittal on 30 corruption charges.

Integrity is also a convenient shield for White racism. Former Illinois senator Carol Mosley Braun's fight to become the U.S. ambassador to New Zealand is but one example. Whites, who probably couldn't find Nigeria on a map, expressed much concern for the lawmaker's "integrity" for trips to Nigeria in efforts to help solve a solution to the West African nation's political problems. But, Illinois Governor George Ryan's recent trip to Cuba — with a gaggle of corporate high rollers in tow — is applauded for starting a debate about how the U.S. should deal with Cuba. Min. Farrakhan, a religious and moral leader, covets with dictators when he visits Cuba, while Ryan and his preceding cabinet patriots are helping promote foreign policy debate. U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Andy Young was forced out for an early meeting with PLO representatives and for trying to seek a balanced Middle East position. President Clinton is applauded for working to bring Palestinians and Israelis together.

The truth is black leaders have been visionaries guided by integrity and commitment to change. If you doubt it look at the

prices some have paid. Slave revolt leader Nat Turner was killed. Nationalist leader Marcus Garvey was jailed and eventually deported for trying to unite Blacks in America and the Diaspora. Intellectual W.E.B. Dubois died in Ghana after a lifetime of work against American racism. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated for leading segregation and linking the non-violent struggle at home to U.S. warmongering in Vietnam. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad was vilified for daring to remind America of her moral and spiritual failures. Black Panther leader Elmer Geronimo Pratt was jailed for over 20 years for working for liberation. And Min. Farrakhan was censured by the Senate for challenging White supremacy. The list goes on and on.

You can find few White leaders who are honored for fighting an unjust status quo. Most are honored for helping to put a system in place based on White privilege or helping to maintain it.

The other reality is America's newsmen have their own problems. Earlier this year, the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) blasted the newspaper industry for failing to increase the number of journalists of color at daily newspapers. NABJ was also asked by the American Association of Newspaper Editors' survey findings that Blacks were only 5.3 percent of newsroom staff. There were small numbers — when compared to the 13 percent Black population in the United States — showed that ASNE is again headed for failure in meeting diversity goals, NABJ complained.

If newspapers can't get their own house in order, how can they be trusted to give fair coverage to Blacks, America's race-obsessed history and culture shows you don't need a conspiracy to attack Black integrity. All you need is a common mind-set forged by the legacy of White supremacy; it will always try to keep Black people in their place.

Richard Muhammad is a writer and columnist based Chicago, where he serves as managing editor of The Final Call newspaper, published by Min. Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam.

The politics of inequality

between working class households whose incomes have held steady or slightly improved vs. the "working poor," people just above the poverty level but whose income level would be a "living wage." Since the draconian Welfare Act of 1996, growing numbers of children are being trapped into poverty or near-poverty. In 1996, more than one in five children were poor, up from 16.4 percent in 1979.

The challenges for black politics and the left is that most liberals and Democrats don't want to talk about class. After all, it was Clinton who signed the 1996 Welfare Act. Both political parties, in varying degrees, pursue policies that directly contribute to class stratification and the vast concentrations of wealth among the upper two or three percent of all U.S. households.

The Economic Policy Institute also notes that 39.9 percent of all African American children and 40.3 percent of all Latino children live in poverty today.

The economic crisis for the poor and working poor can be measured in the cities and states across the country. In New York State, for example, according to a recent study by the Fiscal Policy Institute, the number of New Yorkers in poverty increased by one-third since 1989 to 3 million. Twenty-five percent of the state's children and 40 percent of the children in New York City, live in poverty. For New York State's working poor, "the median family wage fell 6.3 percent in the 1990s despite a 7.9 percent increase in productivity per worker."

Conversely, the Wall Street bull market has affected only a small number of households. The top seven percent of the

York's households, states that Fiscal Policy Institute, "receives 65 percent of all capital gains."

The challenges for black politics and the left is that most liberals and Democrats don't want to talk about class. After all, it was Clinton who signed the 1996 Welfare Act. Both political parties, in varying degrees, pursue policies that directly contribute to class stratification and the vast concentrations of wealth among the upper two or three percent of all U.S. households. In the minimum wage back to its 1968 level, which would be a family of four on poverty level. In the past five years, living wage initiatives have been approved in 32 cities and counties nationwide, with over 70 other campaigns being waged currently. Some cities have now begun to establish a two-tiered living wage. In Detroit, for instance, jobs with benefits must be offered at a minimum of \$12.25 per hour; for jobs without benefits, the living wage mandated is \$10.25 per hour. In San Jose, city contractors are required to pay workers at least \$9.50 per hour, double the

What does all this mean to the future of black politics? As powerful as race and racism are in determining the life chances of African Americans, the politics of inequality will play a more significant and central role, both inside the black community, and in its relations with other groups. In short, class matters, and the battle for economic fairness will be a major respect to be the most fundamental factor in the future of African American politics.

Manning Marable is professor of history and political science and the Director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University.

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NEWARK — Rutgers University Small Business Development Center hosts a seminar on Y2K readiness with small businesses at Two Gateway Center. 10 a.m. (973) 645-6860.

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NEWARK — Chase Bank hosts a forum on community development in the urban centers at the Newark Center. 9 a.m. (973) 353-6153.

JAMESBURGH — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts a breakfast seminar at the Forsgate Country Club. 8 a.m. (609) 399-7855.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Central Jersey Job Developers Association hosts its 16th Annual Job Fair at the Rutgers Labor Education Center. 9 a.m. (732) 745-5300.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on planning a will or estate at the New Jersey Law Center. 10 a.m. (732) 249-5000.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts a breakfast seminar at the Forsgate Country Club. 8 a.m. (609) 399-7855.

Choosing a financial planner: Planning for a secure financial future

ROSELAND — Planning for a secure financial future is not an easy task to tackle alone. On the one side are all the factors that need to be considered: budgeting, cash flow management, retirement, funding for a college education. On the other side are the range of options: money markets, CDs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and 401(k)s. Fortunately, there are professionals available to help weave you through all the alternatives to create a plan that works for you.

The role of a financial planner is to help you define your financial goals and to assist you in implementing a plan to accomplish those goals. As a good financial planner should have more than just technical knowledge, he or she also needs to be a good listener and someone who is willing to focus on what's important to you and what kind of life you want to lead.

The first step in finding a financial planner is to obtain a list of local planners. The Better Business Bureau suggests getting referrals from friends, relatives or colleagues. Another excellent source is your certified public accountant (CPA). Over the last several years, many CPAs have extended their traditional tax services to include financial planning.

"CPAs are already familiar with a client's tax situation," notes Brian W. Hanes, CPA, MBA, a law partner at Hanes & Hanes in Wayne and chairperson of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) Personal Financial Planning Committee. "Financial planning involves many of the same analytical tasks that come naturally to those trained as accountants. CPAs, especially those with audit backgrounds, are used to asking the right questions. In many cases a CPA/financial planner can help."

But, he cautions, to protect the client, may not even

have been aware of."

After developing a list of local financial planners, the next step is to set up some appointments. The Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards recommends meeting with at least three planners before making a decision. Bring to the meeting a summary of your monthly and annual income, expenses, assets and liabilities. Also, write down specific needs such as investment planning or college financing.

"One of the most important questions to ask when discussing financial goals is, 'What am I looking for?'" says Bernard M. Kiehl, CPA, CFP, MBA, president of Kiehl Capital Management, Inc., in Morristown and member of the NJSCPA Personal Financial Planning Committee. "Ask yourself whether you need a comprehensive financial plan that incorporates investment strategies, saving for retirement, budgeting advice and estate planning. Or do you just need assistance in one particular area like managing credit card debt or insurance policy analysis?"

Once you have that figured out, it's much easier for you to articulate your financial needs and goals to the planner and for the planner to develop a plan that is right for you.

During the interview, ask the planner specific questions about his or her fee structure, credentials, disclosure documents, possible conflicts of interest and experience. It is important during the interview to determine if you are meeting with a person you feel comfortable discussing your financial matters with. Also, make the prospective planner aware of your attitude towards taking risks when it comes to investing and what your priorities are in planning for your financial future.

Financial planners are compensated in several different ways: commission only, fee-

commission, fee only, or fee offset. If a planner works on a commission basis that means he or she will collect a fee when you buy something based on their recommendation. Under a fee offset arrangement, a planner will charge you an up-front fee, but if you buy a recommended investment, any commission the planner earns will then be subtracted from that fee.

After determining how the planner will be compensated, consider his or her educational and professional background. A number of specialty designations exist in the financial planning profession. Look for a planner with an additional designation as a Personal Financial Specialist (PFS) or a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). These designations tell you that the person has passed a rigorous examination and has extensive training and experience in the field. While there is no licensing requirement and very little regulation in financial planning, these designations are a good indicator of a planner's ability to provide sound advice. Both the CFP and PFS abide by a code of ethics and is committed to continuing professional education.

For more detailed information on a planner's investment philosophy, education and planning services, request some form of documentation. Most planners will provide you with a standard disclosure document or a firm brochure that contains biographies, firm history and information about the types of planning they provide. This will also assist you in determining if the person has experience in the planning areas that are most important to you. Lastly, ask how long the financial planner has been doing business in this area and for the names of a few clients you can call for references.

Once you have decided upon a particular financial planner, request a written contract or letter to document the nature and scope of service the planner will provide. After you have implemented your financial plan, be sure to reassess your plan regularly with your financial planner and make sure your planner understands your needs as they change and develop over time.

It is not necessary to have the plan rewritten every year," says Kiehl. "But let your planner know about any significant things that have happened to you that might have an impact on your financial plan."

Investing in times of rising interest rates



Dale G. Caldwell

By Dale G. Caldwell

The Federal Reserve Bank, the central bank of the United States, was formed to provide the nation with a monetary and financial system more stable than it had been before 1913. Its duties include keeping the country's financial system stable, establishing monetary policy to promote full employment and stable prices, regulating banks to ensure safety, and helping with the nation's payments system.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve (the "Fed," for short), leads the Board of Governors who make financial and operational decisions that significantly impact the American and world economies.

Over the last few months the Fed's decision to increase interest rates — to prevent inflation increase — has had a significant impact on both the stock market and the consumer market. Fed hikes make it harder for corporations to borrow, so they will not expand as quickly. Consumers may buy fewer homes because mortgage interest rates will be higher. As a result of interest rate hikes, the economy slows and inflation stays down. The stock market responds very quickly to announcements made by Greenspan. In recent months, when he announced an increase in interest rates, the stock market dropped immediately.

How do you protect against interest rate fluctuations? One of the best financial planners recommend that if you invest in stocks or mutual funds you should plan on holding your investments for at least five years. This should help you survive the price fluctuations caused by changes in the economy. One of the biggest mistakes that investors make is to enter immediately after the Fed announces a rate hike. Instead, work with a financial planner to determine what your response should be to an anticipated rise. It should be based on your personal financial goals.

One way to design your investment portfolio to prepare for a potential rise in interest rates is to invest in industry sectors that have traditionally done well when interest rates

rise. Many financial planners recommend investing in companies in the oil and real estate industries because they have done well in times of increasing interest rates. They also recommend a reexamination of investments in banks and brokerage houses because they have not fared well in times of increasing interest rates.

Another way is to allocate your assets to meet your investment objectives. If your investment objective is "aggressive growth" that means that you can tolerate significant risk and wide swings in the value of your investments. You are looking for significant growth in your investments. A typical investment portfolio for someone seeking aggressive growth might consist of 85 percent stocks and 15 percent bonds. If your investment objective is "general growth" then you can tolerate some risk and fluctuations in the value of your investment portfolio. A typical investment portfolio for someone seeking general growth might consist of 70 percent stocks, 25 percent bonds and 5 percent short-term investments. If your investment objective is "growth and income" then you are looking for some growth and little fluctuation in the value of your investment portfolio. A typical investment portfolio for someone seeking "growth and income" might consist of 50 percent stocks, 40 percent bonds and 10 percent short-term investments. If you are a "conservative" investor then you are risk-averse and want minimal fluctuations in the price of your investment portfolio. A typical investment portfolio of a conservative investor might consist of 20 percent stocks, 60 percent bonds and 20 percent short-term investments. Of course these asset allocations are only a guideline. Your personal asset allocation should be based on your personal financial objectives.

There is no way to guarantee you will make money in periods of rising interest rates. However, if you carefully choose your investment portfolio (keeping in mind your personal financial goals), you can prosper even in those tricky times.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

MONTCLAIR — Mount Carmel Church holds evening mass 6 p.m. (973) 744-0205

SUMMIT — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents "Angels Gather Near," an evening of carols and spirituals for the holiday season starring The Concord Singers and special guest the Newark Boys' Chorus School. Apprentices Chorus at St. John's Lutheran Church 7 p.m. (908) 464-5299

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

BELLEVILLE — Christ Episcopal Church celebrates Advent Abendmusik 4 p.m. (973) 751-0616

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

NEW YORK — The Jacksonia Company Inc. presents the acclaimed musical "Too Hot to Handle" at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center 8 p.m. (212) 221-8361

Prayer
CornerJust
Checking In

A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day decided to pause by the altar and see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened, a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw the man hadn't washed in a while. His shirt was kinda shabby and his coat was worn and frayed, the man knelt, he bowed his head, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed, each noon time came this chap, each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap. Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear. He decided to stop the man and ask him, "What are you doing here?" The old man said, he worked down the road. Lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer hour. He needed strength and power. "I stay only moments, see, because the factory is so far away, as I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

"I just came again to tell you, Lord, how happy I've been, since we found each other's friendship and You took away my sin. Don't know much of how to pray, but I think about You every day. So, Jesus, this is Jim checking in."

The minister feeling foolish, told Jim, that was fine. He told the man he was welcome to pray and pray anytime. Time to go, Jim smiled, said "Thanks."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that Jim hadn't come. As more days passed without Jim, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill. The week that Jim was with them, he brought about change in the ward. His smiles, a contagious joy, changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had. The minister stayed by Jim's bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn. Looking around the ward, Jim spoke up with a winsome smile; "the nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, that in here all the while everyday at noon I'm here, a dear friend of mine, you see. He sits right down, takes my hand leans over and says to me,

"I just came again to tell you, Jim, how happy I have been, since we found this friendship, and took away your sin. Always love to hear you pray, I think about you each day, and so Jim, this is Jesus checking in."

Send your church or mosque news or calendar information to the City News?

Fax to: (973) 642-5444

Religion
Observance of Ramadan

'The Confines of My Mind'

By Kelly A. Foster
Correspondent

Last December, I decided that I was ready to challenge — temporarily — an idea festering in my mind for years: regular consumption of meals throughout the day. I would abstain from food for a short period, and gauge the effects on my mind. Of course, I anticipated great difficulty eating food from my daily routine. I also felt that this was something I needed to try; a test I needed to take to learn more about myself. But was I strong enough to deny myself such a vital element of life?

Inspired by a Muslim friend, I decided to fast in accordance with the Muslim lunar month of Ramadan, which commenced on December 8 this year. During the approximately thirty-day month, food and drink is forbidden from sunrise to sunset. The purpose of the fast is two-fold: to preserve self-purification, and encourage compassion among the less fortunate. My purpose was a test of strength. My friend was doubtful that I would endure the fast for even three days. I successfully remained abstinent for the entire month. Surprisingly, the first day of my fast was difficult. I kept myself preoccupied with my job during the day so that food did not consume my thought (an arduous task, since I love to eat). Other days, mornings were not usually a problem because I habitually skipped breakfast. But some days were completely wrenching. Some mornings, I merely sustained from food for a particular time period, and always had the thought of eating at any time, if I desired. But I chose of all the people who do not have easy access to food, I realized they experience hunger pangs far sharper and more acute than I ever have on a continuous basis. And I felt ashamed.

This fast also forced me to examine my inner restraint. I found that I had the strength to journey beyond self-imposed limits. I do not think I can accurately describe the feeling of a victory that I had during the sun-drenched day knowing I was one day closer to accomplishing my goal. And when I had reached my goal, I realized that there are a host of other goals I can achieve by confronting the confines of my mind.

The most important lesson I learned was that of complacency. When you get too comfortable, you do not give yourself a chance to discover what wonderful accomplishments you can achieve. When you refuse to redefine your goals and broaden your expectations, complacency settles in. And that is probably the most dangerous limit you can reach.

compromise my fast. To help ward off temptation, I escaped to the local cinema for a three-hour long feature film that ended after the fast. The worked, but all during the film my stomach growled and growled at me. I vowed to place it the instant I arrived home, and did I in my ravens state. I must have eaten three helpings of all the food in my house.

When the Christmas season ended, I anted the remaining days of my fast to have less tempting moments. But midway through the fast, in January, I started to feel crabby. I was caustic with people, and I blamed it on the fast. It felt like the days were dragging on infinitely. Some days I wanted to just forget the whole thing and eat SOMETHING during daylight hours, even if it was just a piece of toast. I became obsessed with knowing the exact times of the sunrise and sunset. I would check the papers every day, and I was constantly frustrated by the minute differences in sunrise and sunset times. To me, every minute that delayed access to food was vitally important. Usually, I would break the fast by eating dinner at work, but sometimes, I was in my car, in which case, I would try to shovel little bits of food into my mouth as I hurriedly drove home.

Fasting taught me to realize several important lessons, such as empathy. Seldom did I appreciate having food on a daily basis, and seldom did I come across hungry people without feeling at least some contempt. I merely sustained from food for a particular time period, and always had the thought of eating at any time, if I desired. But I chose of all the people who do not have easy access to food, I realized they experience hunger pangs far sharper and more acute than I ever have on a continuous basis. And I felt ashamed.

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Muslims in Suwanee win right to pray during work breaks

SUWANEE, Ga. (AP) — An electronics plant has said it will schedule break times to accommodate a group of 33 Somali Muslims who quit their jobs because the company would not let them leave the assembly floor to offer obligatory Islamic prayers.

A Selection official said Tuesday that each worker also will receive a letter from the company expressing regret over

"misunderstandings."

"They are so happy," said Halima Kerlew, president of the Atlanta-based Somali Refugee Family Foundation, which tried to help the Somalis after they quit their jobs on Oct. 29.

The Somali workers also will receive an undisclosed amount of back pay. The company also promised to set aside special room where the Somalis

can pray and restrooms where they can wash their hands, face and feet before they pray, as required before worship.

Bob Hawkins, general manager of the Suwanee Selection plant, met Sunday with two representatives of the Somalis.

"We very much welcome them back," Hawkins said. He said the company has more than 100 Muslim employees and is "very much better edu-

cated on the religious needs of the Muslim community."

The settlement was brokered by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Washington-based Islamic advocacy group.

As part of the settlement, the Somali Refugee Family Foundation received an undisclosed contribution from Selection. Selection also will arrange diversity training for

its 1,500 employees in Suwanee.

The Somalis, who made cellular phone calls at Selection, said in October that a new boss stopped them from praying when they needed to and suggested that they pray in the bathroom. Muslims are required to pray five times each day. One time coincides with sunset, when the Somalis were buried.

The 'Forgotten Roots' of Enslaved Muslims in America

By Sakina Spruell
Correspondent

Images of Kunta Kinte sprawled between tree branches getting lashes across his back, and Kizzy spitting in her former master's cup, remain strong in the minds of most slave descendants who viewed Alex Haley's epic television drama entitled "Roots." Whether you saw its debut in the late 1970s, a repeat telecast or videotape, those images most likely outweigh the images of Kinte being Muslim.

On Friday, December 3, retired Professor Allan Austin of Springfield (Mass.) College and Sylviane Diouf, author of "Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas," addressed the Islamic subtleties of the mini-series that may have been overlooked by the lay person, at a conference held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, entitled "Forgotten Roots." But it was these subtle references, which have been dismissed by some notable scholars and authors as not being essentially tied to Islam that Austin found inexcusable.

Austin, who is white, expressed before the large crowd of 500 attendees that he was so disgusted with white people hiding African-American history and that compelled him to write a 700-page book, "African Muslims in Antebellum America: A Sourcebook," which is currently out of print. His updated version, "African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Slavery and Spiritual Struggles," documents the lives of over 80 enslaved Africans similar to Kinte, who abstained from eating pork, were Muslim and literate.

"If the total number of arrivals were 11 million, as scholars have concluded, then there may have been about 40,000 African Muslims in the Colonial and pre-Civil War territory making up the United States, before 1860," Austin writes. This would suggest a strong influence of Islam in the Antebellum South.

According to Austin, close to 10 percent of all slaves taken from Senegal and the Bight of Benin were Muslim, and half of all Africans sent to North America came from this region. He also documents Muslim slaves in America as early as 1730. Job Ben Solomon Jallo is one such slave. Jallo was sold

into slavery in Maryland and left behind an autobiography and a letter written in Arabic to his father in Gambia. In the book, Jallo states his discontent with America and the inability to pray five times daily as prescribed by his Islamic religion.

Umar Bin Said was also a Muslim slave, who originated from Senegal and wrote autobiography. In addition, he wrote over 22 manuscripts in Arabic that have been preserved.

"There is a myth that everything was wiped out," said Naqiyah Austin, one of the event's organizers. "We wanted to have this conference basically so that people would know about the Muslim presence and the physical evidence that still exists," she added.

Diouf, a Senegalese native who resides in New York City spoke primarily about the devoutness of the Muslim slaves to their religion.

"There is a perception that the Africans were pagans and sinners because they were not Christian," said Diouf. "And that is not true. They were people who were deeply religious."

"Diouf received her doctorate in Human Sciences from the University of Paris. Specializing in African affairs, Diouf revealed a wealth of knowledge about Muslim enslavement in America as well as Brazil, the West Indies."

The predominant Muslim crowd listened attentively to Diouf as she informed them of documentation she discovered on French West Indian Muslims refusing to eat pork, and the women continuing to maintain Islamic dress by wearing turbans in the fields.

"It's dignity when you insist on wearing a turban in a hot cornfield or sugar cane field. You are saying I am a cleric, I'm Muslim," she explained. In her book, she relays testimonies found in Arabic manuscripts of Muslims as well.

The conference featured a display exhibit by Amir Muhammad and Derrick Beard, which were some of the original Arabic manuscripts mentioned and written about by Diouf and Austin. There also were photographs of tombstones dating back as far as the 1700s, bearing an Islamic symbol representative of the oneness of God etched on them. Three of the tombstones were found in the same cemetery in Tennessee where Chicken George is buried.

Noted pianist brings musical flavor to Metropolitan Baptist Church

NEWARK — Dr. B. Dexter Allgood believes that "music is the soul of man," and he's reaching out to lost souls with a master music plan. Allgood recently joined Metropolitan Baptist Church as its Minister of Music, and he is in tune with uplifting the congregation and visitors alike with a progressive musical approach to worship.

The former head of the Department of Music at Norfolk State University, Allgood kicked off this festive time of the year with a concert — "Celebrating the Birth of the King of Kings," on December 12, at the church. And if this concert was any indication of what Allgood has in store, then he's a blessing to all the souls who pass the threshold of Metropolitan's door.

Diverse, the gospel extravaganza featured selections from the church's very talented Youth Choir, along with Negro spirituals, traditional gospel, Kirk Franklin-



Dexter Allgood, minister of music at Metropolitan Baptist Church

esque gospel and Christmas carols. The choir was accompanied by an ensemble of instruments including the viola, saxophone, and choir bells. But the highlight of the event was the powerful Nigerian spiritual "Siyamba" (pronounced See-ya-

humba), which means "we're walking in the light of God." The singing in a cappella number incorporated African beats and was simply explosive. Also featured was guest soloist Dr. Silona Foster, by way of Norfolk, Virginia, who came down on a tune by the late great Mahalia Jackson entitled, "No Room at the Inn."

"Pastor David Jefferson is a very progressive pastor," said Allgood in reference to the musical direction the church will be taking. "The choir will travel nationally and internationally, and there will be an instrumental and choral CD recorded. There will be an in-house musical curriculum with an emphasis on piano and voice lessons."

Pastor David Jefferson is a very progressive pastor, said Allgood in reference to the musical direction the church will be taking. The choir will travel nationally and internationally, and there will be an instrumental and choral CD recorded. There will be an in-house musical curriculum with an emphasis on piano and voice lessons.

Rosa Parks' former church names chapel after her



MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks' former church in Montgomery has named its chapel after her.

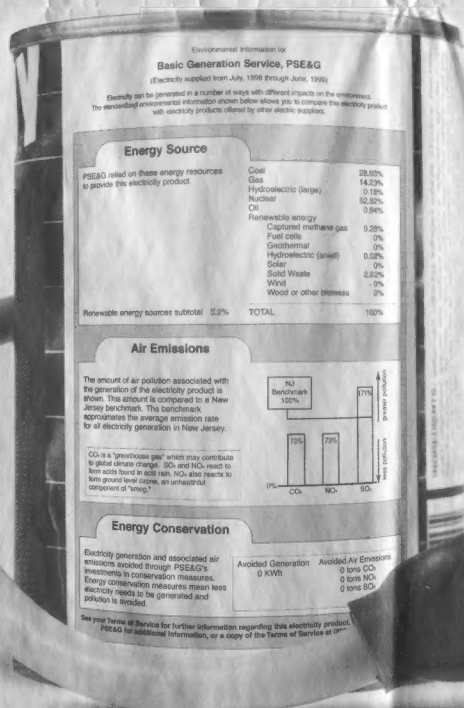
Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church recently dedicated the chapel in honor of Mrs. Parks, whose refusal to give up a seat on a Montgomery bus in 1955 triggered a bus boycott in the city, seen as an integral part of the civil rights movement.

Mrs. Parks, 87, now lives in Detroit. She is a former steward and a Sunday school superintendent at the church.

"What she stood for meant a lot to black people all over the United States," said church member Linda Nelson. The church has wanted to honor Mrs. Parks for a long time, said the Rev. Joseph Rembert Sr. "We want to make where we are, and to help the keepers of our past," he prepares.

Which energy suppliers are environmentally friendly?

Check the label.

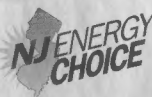


We've all seen the nutrition labels that food manufacturers must provide on their canned goods. Now, as part of NJ Energy Choice, all licensed electric suppliers must provide a similar statement explaining the environmental characteristics of the electricity they sell. This Environmental Label will include information about the supplier's energy sources, the types and amounts of air emissions it generates, and the efforts the company makes to increase energy conservation. Why this new label? It's all part of helping you compare electricity offers

based on environmental performance, and of helping you make a more informed decision.

After all, that's what NJ Energy Choice is all about.

To learn more about the new Environmental Label or choosing your own electric supplier, call 1-800-706-PSEG. Or visit us at www.pseg.com.



This message is brought to you by PSE&G in partnership with New Jersey Citizen Action • American Association of Blacks in Energy - NJ Chapter • Association for Children of NJ Center for Non-Profit Corporations • Community FoodBank of NJ • Community Health Law Project • Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey • New Jersey Community Action Association • NJ NAACP State Conference of Branches • NJ State Council of the Urban League • United Way of Essex & West Hudson • Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Local Briefs

Organization offers a course in fund raising

CRANFORD — The National Society of Fund Raising Executives, New Jersey Chapter will be sponsoring its "First Course in Fund Raising" on January 13 & 14, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day at Union County College. Trustees and volunteers at non-profit organizations, as well as professionals new to the development field, will learn how to organize and manage fund-raising programs and gain basic skills in a variety of techniques that will prepare them for a career in development. The course will include: Introduction to Fund Raising; Strategic Planning; the Integrated Development Program; Annual Giving Techniques, including direct mail; Securing Major Gifts; Obtaining Grant Support; Working with Board Members, Volunteers and CEO's; and Managing Development Office Operations. Each segment will be taught by a New Jersey based development professional who has been awarded the distinction of Certified Fund Raising Executive by NSFRE. To register, send a resume to: NSFRE, 1000 N. 10th St., Suite 100, Cranford, NJ 07015-6871. Registrations should be received by no later than January 3, 2000.

Youngsters attend Bloomfield College to help increase reading and writing skills

NEWARK — Students at Roseville Avenue School in Newark are improving their reading and writing skills with the help of volunteers from Bloomfield College. The program, titled SCLEP (Suburban, Urban, Educational Enhancement Program), is a 25-week program that provides one-on-one tutoring for young students who need extra help in reading and writing. SCLEP was introduced at the school two years ago in collaboration with the Communities Agencies Corporation and the Protestant Community Centers, Inc. (PCCCI) Newark, which trains the college students to be tutors.

Management forum announces scholarship program

PLAINFIELD — The TWIN Management Forum (TMF) of Central New Jersey, a network of executive and professional women who have received the Tribute to Women and Industry (TWI) Award, announces its 2000 Scholarship Program. At least two awards of up to \$1,000 each for educational-related expenses will be given. Scholarship candidates must be women and must demonstrate financial need and realistic goals. College senior or postgraduate level students, must be at an undergraduate level and needed for entry to entry into the work place. The award is for new high school graduates. Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Women living in an area served by the Central NJ TWI group are eligible to apply. These areas include Somerset, Union, Middlesex, Essex, and Monmouth Counties. Completed applications must be received by March 1, 2000. Awards will be given in May. For information call (908) 756-3500.

High school students take part in college fair

NEWARK — Newark Public Schools juniors and seniors recently participate in a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) High School Day at Central High School. Representatives from over twenty historically black colleges and universities were on hand to offer insight regarding campus experiences, student profiles, social climates and more. Juniors and seniors from throughout the school district had an opportunity to discuss acceptance requirements and available scholarships with representatives from Bethune Cookman, Dillard, Hampton, Howard, Florida A&M, Morehouse, Morgan State, and Tuskegee Universities and more. "We must increase the awareness of historically black colleges and universities because many times students are told these institutions are inferior and they are not encouraged to apply," said Shirley Grady, Director of Student Services for Newark Public Schools and Tuskegee University Alumna.

Two prominent leaders honored for their work as 'bridge builders'

WASHINGTON — Two civic leaders were recently named "bridge builders" for their commitments to making a difference in Harlem.

Reverend Calvin O. Butts III, pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Jim Donald, Pathmark president and CEO, were honored for their vision and dedication to community partnerships and the opening of a Pathmark grocery store in Harlem.

The awards was presented by Partners For Livable Communities at the third annual Bridge Builders dinner hosted by Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., in Washington, D.C.

"These are men who have built bridges to effect renewal of the once beleaguered Harlem Community," said Robert McNulty, president of Partners for Livable Communities. "Through their partnership, they have ended years of neglect and community collaboration to create local jobs and truly impact Harlem's quality of life."

In the spring of 1986, Reverend Butts challenged his congregation to join forces with his city to reverse the urban decay that made Harlem a symbol of disinvestment, abandonment, high



Rev. Calvin Butts

unemployment, crime and homelessness. In response, the Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) emerged in 1989 with a mission of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization through real estate and economic development. Its record of success includes a rehabbed building for homeless families, a 100-unit complex for senior citizens and a number of affordable rental properties. ADC has grown to a staff of 50 and has built successful partnerships with social service agencies and funders, while

retaining as its core principle resident involvement.

ADC teamed up with Pathmark's Jim Donald to open the first large grocery store in Harlem in April of this year. Pathmark employs more than 250 associates, at least 75 percent of whom reside within Harlem. Moreover, construction of the \$16 million project created 150 construction jobs, making it the first major development in Harlem in more than a generation.

Partners for Livable Communities, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit leadership organization that works to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development and social equity. Founded in 1977, Partners helps communities establish public and private coalitions to assist in setting goals and effective using resources to economically and socially strengthen communities.

The Bridge Builders awards program was developed by Partners in recognition of the late Dan E. Swart Jr., who helped unite Atlanta's black and white communities and public and private sectors.

Rev. William Rutherford takes over leadership of New Jersey NAACP

By Joy Russell Perez

IRVINGTON (AP) — As the Rev. William Rutherford prepares to take the reins of New Jersey's NAACP, making sure black students stay in school and improving relations between minorities and the State Police are at the forefront of his agenda.

Rutherford, a Baptist pastor for 27 years, was recently inducted as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He replaces Elaine Harrington, who recently stepped down after holding the position for six years.

During an interview at his office in Greater New Point Baptist Church in Irvington, where he has served as pastor for nearly 20 years, Rutherford acknowledged that his new job at this particular time will be challenging. The 56-year-old has lived in South Orange for 16 years with his wife, Marilyn, and grew up in Americas, Ga.

"I've toyed with the idea (of becoming NAACP president) over the summer, and wanted to make sure my wife would understand my long absence," said Rutherford. "There's a lot to do."

One thing Rutherford wants to do is combat racial profiling by the State Police. Two state Attorney General's reports have concluded that some troopers engaged in the practice of pulling over motorists because of their race. The issue has prompted a year-long controversy — including an NAACP protest in April against the nomination of former Attorney General Peter Verniero to the state Supreme Court.

One possible solution is

mandating officers to take more sensitivity training classes while they're in the academy and during their careers on the force, Rutherford said.

"I think the police need more sensitivity training, but citizens need sensitivity training, too. I tell black youth to do as the officer says, even if you feel it's wrong, and just let it go so you can be around for another day," said Rutherford. "They have the gun."

Rutherford said even he gets nervous when a police car has followed him or an officer pulls him over.

"It's not that I'm afraid of the police, but I sometimes wonder what he's going to do," said Rutherford. "It's more of a natural fear."

Rutherford said he also would like to see town forums held where black citizens of the community and police officers can discuss ways to reduce "the fear of one another."

Another of Rutherford's priorities is preventing black children from dropping out of school.

"We have a high number of dropouts (within the black community) in this state, and some that are graduating can't function in real life," said Rutherford.

But parents tend to turn to television to train their kids about issues in life, and TV is filled with sex and violence, said Rutherford. "We need more of a centered commitment from parents and teachers."

Rutherford is reluctant to categorize his social beliefs, however.

"Conservative and liberal are two loaded words," he said. "I'm on the right side of life with mother and father as rulers of the home."

Panel recommends raises for lawmakers, judges and governor

By Amy Westfield

NEWARK (AP) — A commission recently recommended a 40 percent pay increase for New Jersey lawmakers, and hefty raises for the governor, state judges and other public officials.

A \$49,000-per-year salary, up from \$35,000, would make the governor the highest-paid in the country if the Legislature agrees to the recommendations of the Public Officers Salary Commission. It would also allow a \$175,000 salary for the governor, which would be the second highest in the nation.

New Jersey lawmakers have not had a pay raise since 1990, the same year governors were allowed to accept a \$130,000 salary. No New Jersey governor, however, has been paid that much: former Gov. Jim Florio and Gov. Christie Whitman have accepted an \$85,000 salary.

State judges and county prosecutors would earn \$141,000, up nearly 23 percent from \$115,000. The chief justice of the Supreme Court, Deborah Poritz, would earn \$184,250. Cabinet-level positions in the state would be capped at \$141,000.

"It's Christmas time in New Jersey for salary increases," said Sam Perelli, a taxpayer advocate and lone dissenter on votes to raise legislative and Cabinet salaries. "We gave gifts out."

Some lawmakers said that after a long drought, they deserved a raise, which would not be the first until after the 2001 elections.

"I've envisioned a \$10,000 to \$15,000 increase, and that's only to make legislators comparable to make legislators comparable to other states," said Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, D-Mercer. "In the end, it will serve the public's interest because it's going to attract more candidates."

New Jersey lawmakers are currently the 10th-best paid in the nation, but their pay lags far behind full-time legislators in New York and Pennsylvania. Cabinet members, which were among the nation's best-paid when they earned \$115,000, and would get a 23 percent raise.

Whitman's salary would be second only to New York Gov. George Pataki, who earns \$179,000.

"It sounds high, but I don't really know," Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, R-Union, said of the proposed salaries for Whitman and cabinet members.

He said he has no opinion on the proposed legislative raises.

The Legislature would have to pass a bill to approve the commission's recommendations.

Whitman, who has the discretion to set salaries for Cabinet members and other appointed commissioners, is awaiting results of another study on salaries before making a decision, spokeswoman Jayne O'Connor said.

The commission, formed by lawmakers earlier this year to decide how much public officials should be paid, rejected some lawmakers' suggestions to give legislators' automatic pay raises over the next several years.

But it recommended that a commission meet at least every two years to reevaluate salaries, which "accomplishes the same thing," said commission chairman James DiEleuterio.

Commission member John Degnan, who proposed the legislators' raise, said they are in session more often than their colleagues in other states.

"This is truly a full-time job getting a part-time salary," Degnan said.

Perelli proposed a \$5,000 raise for legislators and a \$15,000 raise for Cabinet-level officials, saying it was all they deserved. Lawmakers work only part-time, he said, and often introduce self-serving bills.

The legislators also receive perks such as health coverage and pensions, plus \$90,000 budgets to hire staffs. They also get paid to rent district offices.

Many appointees haven't received raises in more than a decade. Casino Control Commission members, for example, earn \$90,000 and haven't received a raise since 1986. The commission proposed paying members up to \$141,000.

State judges last received a raise in 1990. Poritz testified at an earlier hearing that the raise, the only in a decade, had lowered judicial morale.

Under state law, legislators could not receive their raise until after the 2001 elections. The raises for judges and prosecutors would be retroactive to Sept. 1, 1999, while other increases would be at the governor's discretion, commissioners said.

The commission deadlocked on a 3-3 vote on how much to pay Workers' Compensation judges, who are part of the Department of Labor but currently earn as much as state Superior Court judges. DiEleuterio said the judges' pay should be decided by the governor because they are part of the executive branch of government. Michael Critchley, a criminal defense attorney, argued that the 35 or 40 judges should be paid competitively.

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The Newark Public Schools
2 Cedar Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., a public body known as the "Sunshine Law," The Newark Public School District wishes to announce the following:

THE LOCATION OF THE DECEMBER 21, 1999 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WILL BE:

ARTS HIGH SCHOOL
350 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Tentative Agenda

- Public Participation
- Report of the State District Superintendent
- Educators/Curriculum
- Legal
- Operations
- Human Resource Services
- Finance
- Facilities
- Purchasing
- Report of the Advisory Board Chairperson
- Adjournment

FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS SESSION

Marion A. Bolden
State District Superintendent

Continuous Music, Poetry, Art, and
Unexpected Happenings from 7:30pm 'til Fireworks at Midnight!

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Newark
2000

Newark's Millennium Celebration
Newark Downtown District
Friday, December 31, 1999
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Purchase First Night Newark buttons or pick up a Program Guide at Newark branches of Banco Populi, Bank of New York, City National Bank, First Union National Bank, Independence Community Bank, PNC Bank, and Summit Bank. Buttons go on sale December 6.

Visit our website www.firstnightnewark.org

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CityLife

December 15 — December 21, 1999

City News B1

Gifts for the season

1) "men of color Fashion, History, Fundamentals"

By Lloyd Boston

Ladies, for that reasonably special man in your life, the new book by fashion and style aficionado, Lloyd Boston, is a gift he'll surely appreciate — that is, if he's a man of style. And if he's not, then turn him on to what it means to embody style. This book is a tour de force chronicling men of color from the past and present, who have left an indelible mark — when it comes to looking good. Check out page 28, which features such jazz greats as the debonair Joe Williams, in ascot and all. A very young and polished Louis Armstrong in a three-piece suit fully accessorized with a four-point pocket square and chain link bracelet. Nat "King" Cole is the epitome of clean — sporting a stripe suit with paisley print tie. There's a bespectacled Dizzy Gillespie sporting avant-garde dark rim frames and topping off a double breasted suit with his trademark beret — doing his own Dizzy artistic thing, along with Thelma Houston. Monk, who when it came to fashion was out there by himself. Posh photography and circa photos add to the many layers that make this book a must have. From the selection and proper fit of pants to off-the-rack and custom made shirts. Hear from some men who have carved out their own style — from Isaac Hayes to Ahmad Rashad. The evolution of fashion in the music industry. There's even a feature on Star, a veteran shoe-shine man, who has kept the shoes of the rich and famous gleaming for days. The shoe section says a lot, because that's one sure tell-tale sign if, indeed, a man has style — always check out the shoe! Boston strikes perfection in capturing everything there was, is, and you ever wished to know about style — when it comes to men of color.

2) WBGO 20th Century

Commemorative Calendar

WBGO Commemorates 100 years of Jazz with 2000 calendar is an inexpensive gift — \$15 that goes far and will be a sure hit for the music lover. The Legends and Masters 200 WBGO Jazz Calendar celebrates veteran artists and new

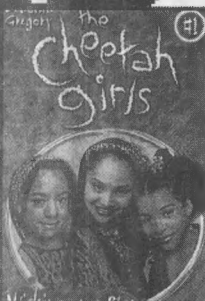
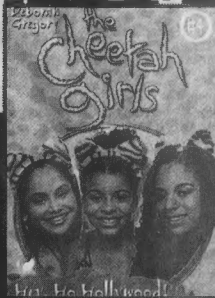
masters voted by the WBGO announcers as the 20th Century's most influential. Featured in the calendar are: Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Marian McPartland, Duke Ellington, Mary Lou Williams, Betty Carter, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Billie Holiday, Wynton Marsalis, Diana Krall and Cassandra Wilson. The calendar is a large, pictorial, functional wall calendar, including archival photos from the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers. These types of calendars also serve another purpose, when the year is over frame your favorite picture and keep it as a prized memento. All proceeds from the sale of the calendar go to support WBGO, a listener-supported public radio station. To purchase a calendar stop by WBGO at 54 Park Place Newark or telephone (973) 624-8880.

3) Cheetah Girls Book Series

"The CHEETAH GIRLS" by Deborah Gregory is a fresh collection of books by Deborah Gregory, whose column runs in Essence Magazine, for 8-13-year-old girls filled with spirit and sass. The adventurous escapades of five girls in their quest to survive the rigors of high school and become the world's hottest singing group. "The CHEETAH GIRLS breaks the traditional series boundaries by reflecting the diversity of American culture," said Lisa Holton, Sr. VP and Group Publisher. Now getting that young girl in your family excited about reading just got easier. CHEETAH GIRLS captures the language and attitude of the preteen generation. It is one of the first book series for black girls. In the first volume, "Wishing on a Star," the girls hook up and form a singing group to make a few dollars. The next three volumes — "Shop in the Name of Love," "Who's Bout to Bounce," and "Hey, Ho Hollywood," are due to be released later this year. And don't think these sisters are all glitz and glam, they do have solid gold values. Part of their credo states: "All Cheetah Girls are created equal... I will not judge others by the color of their spots, but by their character." How's that for girl power!

4) New Jersey Lotto

Everyone loves the gift of money and for \$5 you can pick-up a six-pack of lottery tickets all gift packaged ready to win. If you have a winning ticket in the bunch you can collect up to \$20,000 — not bad for five-bucks.



NOT Brand Prices

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CityLife

Nordstroms Great Holiday Gift Ideas

For those last minute gifts Nordstroms Department Store has some great gift giving ideas to fit just about every pocket-book. Are you still struggling to buy something for that person who has everything—what about a set of champagne bottle caddies for \$25. Christmas is always a good time to give a unique timepiece to that special lady, and for under \$75 an Pulse-Klein silver watch is a great selection. For that special man who has everything how about a pair of clock cuff links. Visit the Nordstroms website to finish up your Christmas shopping.

Gifts \$25 and Under

- \$23.50 Millennium Bear & Chocolates
- \$12 - Silver Bell Napkin Rings
- \$24 - Holiday Basket with Truffles
- \$15 - Small Snowman Plate
- \$15 - Large Snowman Mug & Saucer
- \$17 - Dipping Oil
- \$22 - Godiva Chocolates
- \$25 - Champagne Bottle Caddies
- \$19 - Millennium Champagne Bottle Bag (Silver & Gold)

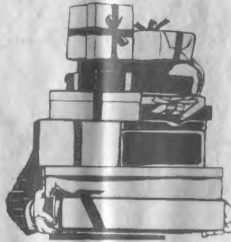
Gifts \$100 and Under

- \$85 - Men's Cotton Robe (1 size)
- \$95 - Men's Leather Tie Case
- \$79.50 - Men's Polo Pullover Sweater (Cotton Z-XL - Gold, Red, or Navy)
- \$100 - Silver Button Cuff Links
- \$95 - Men's Chenille Scarf



Gifts \$50 and Under

- \$34 - Silver Snowflake Candle Holder & Candle
- \$34 - Musical Candle (Pearl Silver Picture Frames)
- \$26 - 4x6
- \$34 - 5x7
- \$48 - Silver Ice Buckets
- \$40 - Men's Silver Money Clip
- \$34 - Perlina Leather Cell Phone Case



Gifts \$200 and Under

- \$115 - Set of Waterford Champagne Flutes (Love, Prosperity, Health, Peace or Wealth)
- \$169.50 Men's Cashmere Pullover Sweater (SS-XL Blue, Gray, Black or Camel)
- \$115 - 14 K & Sterling Silver Cuff Links
- \$140 - Women's Outer Sweater (S-L Multi Colored)
- \$165 - Men's Clock Cuff Links (Round or Square)



A dreamy gift idea

Williams White Island pajamas in Seattle (reg. price, \$49.99)

NORDSTROM

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Health calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
BENKLEY HEIGHTS — Sage Inc. hosts a group discussion for people caring for the elderly 7 p.m. (708) 273-4598

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8500

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany location 12 p.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital offers a two-day support program for people living with cancer and their caregivers. 11 a.m. (201) 833-1181

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have lost a loved one 7 p.m. (732) 745-8505

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people dependent on nicotine 5:30 p.m. (732) 937-6050

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Center hosts a free blood pressure screenings for seniors 10 a.m. (908) 753-3505

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 9 a.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital offers a course in healthy eating to a better heart. 10:30 a.m. (732) 937-8920

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

BENKLEY HEIGHTS — Sage Inc. hosts an open house for some of its health programs for the elderly

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany headquarters 9 a.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University's (NJCU) Women's Center hosts a group discussion on women self-esteem (201) 200-3189

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for women with breast cancer 7 p.m. (732) 745-6680

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 9 a.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for caregivers of cancer patients 7 p.m. (732) 745-8500

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8500

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people dependent on nicotine 5:30 p.m. (732) 937-6050

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 9 a.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

NORTH PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union Chapter and Plainfield holds a blood drive at Holy Cross Episcopal Church 9 a.m. (908) 353-2500

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 9 a.m. 1-800-6-BLOOD-NJ

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital offers a course on babysitting for teenage boys and girls 11:15 p.m. (732) 745-8699

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

EDISON — The American Red Cross of Greater Union Chapter and Plainfield holds a blood drive at the Edison Firehouse 2 p.m. (908) 353-2500

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

CRANFORD — Union County College's Department of Continuing Education offers training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) Call (908) 709-7501 for information

Health Features

Burned-Out? Stressed Out?

By Pamela Ammondson

Job burnout is a hot topic these days. In fact, according to a recent report in the *New York Times*, job burnout is one of the human topics discussed at human resource meetings around the country. It's no wonder. With less staff doing more work in nearly every industry, people are feeling the drain both mentally and physically.

If your work leaves you feeling tired, unfulfilled, powerless and frustrated, you may indeed be suffering from burnout. But before you do something drastic like quit your job or switch careers, try a simple revitalization program that can renew your energy and rekindle your tired spirit.

The Lost Art of Sabbatical

Nearly every country but the United States practices the art of sabbatical. In a nutshell, a sabbatical is a recurring period of rest and renewal.

People typically envision sabbaticals being multi-month retreats to some place of solitude. In the real world, a sabbatical need not be so drastic. In fact many people can recharge their mental and physical energies in as little as a week.

But what if you can't seem to get even an extra hour for yourself, much less a whole week? Simple. Renew your energy on a daily basis to overcome your burnout-out of mind.

Easy Steps to Renewing Your Energy

The first step is to know why you're feeling so drained of energy. To determine this, keep a log of your daily activities to identify what's causing the burnout. Think about what you can do free up your energy. What are your priorities? Are there any tasks you can delegate or delegate? Would anyone notice if you didn't do a particular item or if you didn't

attend a meeting?

Doing something as simple as making a "To Do" list and prioritizing your activities can help you take control of your time. Think about what absolutely must be done and how to best structure your day to make sure you have enough time to accomplish these essential activities. To prioritize your tasks, evaluate whether they are helping you meet your goals and objectives. If you're not constantly doing activities that don't have anything to do with your goals, then you're doing the wrong activities or you need to rethink your goals.

Too many people take on too many commitments at once and drain nearly all their energy. Realizing that you don't have to accept every invitation or tolerate every interruption is a step in the right direction. Learn how to tactfully say no and fend off interruptions in order to save your precious energy for more important matters.

In addition to better organizing your time, you need to keep your physical body nourished during times of stress. Very often people react to stress by drinking more coffee, eating a heavier fast-food and quitting their exercise routines. This is a road to disaster.

Keeping your body nourished with healthy foods will keep your energy levels up — something you definitely need during a burnout crisis. Cut back on caffeine, alcohol, sugar, fat and stress and any foods that make you sluggish and tired. Also, regular exercise can help calm your fears, increase your strength and stamina, and raise your energy levels. Some great physical activities include jogging, swimming, bicycling, cross-country skiing, aerobics, dancing, in-line skating, hiking and walking at a brisk pace. When the day-to-day grind makes you feel out of control, exercise puts you squarely in control of life and moving forward on your path.

Renew in as Little as Seven Minutes

Can you really renew yourself from burnout in as little as seven minutes? You bet! But it's not a one-time quick fix. You need to take revitalization breaks every day. A great way to revitalize is with a beauty break.

No matter where you live or work, there's beauty all around you. During the day, visit a park or some other secluded place filled with nature's beauty. The growing field of ecopsychology studies the powerful connection between nature and mental well-being. Many people experience a heightened awareness in nature, their senses are sharpened, they feel connected to something greater than themselves and a sense of inner peace.

Find a quiet place to relax and enjoy the scenery. As you do this, take deep breaths by inhaling slowly to the count of five and exhaling slowly in the same manner. Repeat this breathing exercise ten times. This helps clear your mind and relieve the chest tightness stress causes. If you spend your days in a bustling city, take a similar break near a fountain, in a beautiful hotel lobby filled with lush green plants, a flower shop or in a museum. Each place will offer something peaceful and relaxing to focus on.

Another great daily technique is to listen to relaxing music. CDs are like giant sponges they soak up everything around them and use those stimuli to determine our mood. Many researchers have even determined that stress hormones rise in response to noise, especially harsh, violent or loud sounds. When you're at work, keep a portable cassette or CD player nearby and some of your favorite relaxation music. Many people gain by listening to classical or meditation music that's intertwined with nature sounds

such as a babbling brook, a rainstorm, or waves crashing against the shore. As you listen to your music, practice your breathing exercises to help soothe your burnout symptoms.

Getting Away From It All

A planned getaway, whether it's for a weekend or a day, can help you get away from life's fast pace so you can relax and renew your whole system. A weekend "away from it all" can work like magic, completely revitalizing your mind, body and spirit. It's a wonderful antidote to a hectic schedule and lifestyle. You can even plan a getaway weekend at home. Unplug the phone, turn off the pager and renew your energy by giving yourself a couple of days to do activities that recharge your energy.

A one-day getaway can also be relaxing. Many people enjoy day outings to a spa, the beach or a quiet park. Whatever form of escape you choose, be sure to "get away" to a stress-free, nurturing environment. Noisy, crowded places can wreak havoc with your nerves and consume lots of energy. Planning a relaxation and renewal period helps to refill the well. After a rest or two away, you'll feel recharged, recharged and ready to assess what changes you need to make in your life.

You Can Survive a Burnout

Once you pinpoint where your energy is being drained and find simple ways to renew yourself, you can overcome job burnout. Many people who implement these simple techniques report a renewed sense of purpose without having to make a drastic life change. The key is to focus on yourself, your surroundings and your energy-in order keep your burnout at bay.

Pamela Ammondson is a business consultant.

Asthma medication recalled by company

WASHINGTON (AP) — Schering-Plough Corp. is recalling five batches of Vancelli, an inhaled prescription medication for asthma, because some of the canisters may not contain active drug.

Schering, based in Madison, N.J., recently warned that the recall "should be considered very serious" because patients using a defective inhaler could be left more vulnerable to asthma attacks, even requiring hospitalization. No illnesses, however, have been reported, the company said.

Patients cannot tell if they have a defective canister by looking, because the inhaler may appear to emit an aerosol spray even if that spray does not contain active drug, Schering said.

Recalled are five lots of Vancelli 84 mcg double strength inhalation aerosol convenience packs. The lot numbers are: 9-DMT-187, 9-DMT-158, 9-DMT-160, 9-DMT-161 and 9-DMT-163. They were distributed in November and have an expiration date of July 2000.

Patients can check the top or bottom flaps of the package and the canister label for the lot numbers and expiration date to see if they have any of the recalled canisters. Patients may return recalled inhalers to the drugstore of purchase for a free replacement, and may call 1-800-621-9760 for more information.

AIDS prevention neglected in large states and major cities

African Americans and Latinos hardest hit

PRINCETON — Drug-injection-related AIDS continues to spread in the absence of syringe exchange programs. Many states and cities with the highest rates of injection-related AIDS do not have these programs, according to a new analysis by the Dogwood Center of Princeton, N.J.

The injection-related AIDS epidemic has been particularly severe among African Americans and Latinos. From the beginning of the epidemic through the end of 1998, African Americans and Latinos together accounted for three quarters of all injection-related AIDS cases.

"Four of the ten states with the highest rates of IV-drug-related AIDS do not allow needle exchange programs. None of the states provide adequate needle exchange," said Dawn Day, Ph.D., Director of the Dogwood Center, the study's author.

The study is based on a special tabulation of most recent data — through 1998 — obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Injection-related AIDS cases include persons who inject drugs and their heterosexual partners. According to the CDC, half of all new HIV cases now start with sharing syringes.

The spread of HIV through shared syringes has increased for two reasons. First, the price of heroin has fallen and purity increased, making addiction more rapid and less expensive. Second, medical advances in AIDS treatment mean persons who inject drugs and are infected with HIV/AIDS are living longer and continuing to share needles.

"For effective AIDS prevention, a substantial expansion and federal funding of needle exchange programs are urgently needed," said Day.



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A&R Wednesday

December 18 • December 21, 1998

Vikter. and James Poyser are at the front of Philly music's comeback

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

James Jam and Terry Lewis. Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and L.A. Reid. Quincy Jones and Quincy Jones.

If these pairs are any indication of what happens when two talented souls merge their production skills into one, then the next stellar production team is alright rising to the same ranks.

Philadelphia's James Poyser and Vikter. (Yes, there is a period after his name) are building a roster of clients and songs that's helping to put Philly's music back on the map like it was in the 1970s and 1980s. When the mentors of Poyser and Vikter., Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff of Philadelphia International Records, ruled its music empire from its headquarters in Philadelphia.

It's a hard listen to Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff telling war stories [of their experience in the industry]. It helped me to develop music as a producer," said James Poyser in a telephone interview from his home.

Along with Gamble and Huff, Poyser and Vikter., who both produced various acts for PIR, has paid off.

Both producers have joined forces and are currently developing their own company of their own, called the Axis Music Group. The company is in development, the two producers are yet to be named and will work for the high profile clients that they have separately through their careers.

Working with friend Will Smith they are currently developing the music for his new movie. Poyser and Vikter. are also producing for Jaguar the budding star of the new Year's Eve. Next week he's off to London to work with pop groups Cleopatra and All Saints, and Rob Ross, who co-wrote the chart-topping hits on Ricky Martin's last album.

Vikter. is currently working with Erykah Badu and Zhane on their new album. He is also producing for Jaguar the budding star of the new Year's Eve. Next week he's off to London to work with pop groups Cleopatra and All Saints, and Rob Ross, who co-wrote the chart-topping hits on Ricky Martin's last album.



Vikter



James Poyser

He also works as an executive consultant for the A&R department at PIR.

Just as these artists will influence future producers with the tracks they make, these guys also credit their growth as producers and songwriters to the music that they grew up listening to.

"My style takes its cue from the music I grew up listening to. I grew up with the influences of Stevie Wonder and Quincy Jones. I try to do things that are soulful. I do my own thing. I'm not trying to be like anyone else," Poyser said.

Vikter. echoed the same sentiment.

"I enjoy so many different types of music. This allows me to be very versatile," said Vikter., who also names Wonder and Jones as some major influences on his style.

And even with talent and style, the producers can not help but give their props to Will Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff, who they knew from living in the same area.

Poyser, who started out as keyboardist for The New Jersey Mass Choir, Walker, Vanessa Bell Armstrong and Teddy Pendergrass, was one of the producers DJ Jazzy Jeff called when he started his own production company, "A Touch of Jazz."

Vikter., who started out as a singer before his voice changed, was among Will Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff's entourage, working as a tour manager and meeting all types of industry notables during the show "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air." From this atmosphere, Vikter. and DJ Jazzy Jeff landed various music projects, including the soundtrack to "The Simpsons" and the Starter jackets and hats campaign after company owner Brad Beckerman (Paula Abdul's ex-husband) observed them one day in the studio.

As to future projects, both hope to work on producing an album of their own and working with some of the artists they listened to as a child.

And all of that looks to be in the future, as they continue to follow the advice of Kenny Gamble (his Kenny Gamble) vibe was like look, all you need is a strong melody, strong lyrics, strong vocals. Make music people want to hear," said Vikter.

And these two are doing just that.

Music Reviews



The Winans Phase 2

Just as The Winans, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Debbie and Alvin Ailes, Winans and Marva Winans have forged a new sound for generations of African American audiences, the sons of the Winans have taken their musical journey to a new level with a hip-hop inspired album. The album, "Phase 2," is a collection of tracks by Babyface, Narada Michael Xenzou, Cedric and Victor Caldwell and Rodney Jerkins.



New World Party

is a very dynamic mix of its diversity and artists featured on it. Geared towards educating listeners about the different cultural music styles, the album contains biographies on each artist featured on it and descriptions of cultures that influence each song.

Different music styles embraced through the record include Senegalese hip-hop, Latin soul, Brazilian R&B, and Afrobeat.

Standout singles include Marianne Makona "Pata Pata 2000" an uptempo jazz bass-driven selection complete with the chants of Marimba supported by a soulful choir, and "Sang Fere," a hip-hop spiritual sung in Haitian Creole. "Refugee" is about political brutality as the two Hill sing the English choir.



The Whitfield Company

MUSIC NOTES

Motown adds BeBe Winans to its roster

Gospel legend BeBe Winans has left Atlantic Records and signed with growing industry powerhouse Motown Records.

At a press luncheon in New York City, Motown President and CEO Kedar Massenburg announced the Grammy Award winning singer signed with the legendary label that is home to Smokey Robinson, Brian McKnight, Erykah Badu, 702, and Chico DeBarge.

Massenburg will co-execute produce Winans next album.

tured artists like Busta Rhymes to Dr. John performing various songs from Marley tunes Seal, Sheryl Crow Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, Kymoni Marley, Julian Marley, Lauryn Hill Erykah Badu, and Queen Latifah added their vocals to the show.

The show will air on TN, December 19 at 8 p.m. EST.



Stevie Wonder

Stevie Wonder considers eye surgery

Stevie Wonder met with specialists at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland to discuss the possibility of having his sight.

The institute has developed a new procedure that would implant a computer chip in the retina, and using a special set of glasses, images seen through the glasses would be beamed to the computer chip, which would send the message to eye cells that have not been damaged. This would allow Wonder and others who undergo the procedure to see shapes and shades, but does not guarantee total sight.

Whitfield Company to appear on NBC

When Thomas Whitfield, founder of The Whitfield Company, died in 1992, many in the gospel music industry predicted the death of the Detroit-based gospel choir as their vocal dropped it from its roster the same year.

But now the group has rebounded, showing the reason why the group has been

around for twenty-two years. Since the release of the first album since Whitfield's death, "Still, The Whitfield Company," the group has worked up a standing for themselves in its aftermath. The choir made its first television appearance last December on the "Today Show," the NBC show with Katie Couric and Matt Lauer

as the first act on its annual outdoor Christmas concert series. This year it will return to NBC on the "Weekend Today Show," as part of the Christmas series at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, December 19 at 8 a.m.

In addition to its television appearances, the group has received numerous awards.

KWANZAA

Founded in 1966 by educator Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th until January 1st by more than 13 million African Americans across the country. What is Kwanzaa? Well, it is neither a political nor a religious holiday. It is not intended to take the place of Christmas.

Kwanzaa (Swahili for "the first harvest") is a cultural celebration. It is a time to reflect and rejoice on the struggles and successes of African Americans throughout history. There are seven basic principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate life!

A FAMILY CELEBRATION

Each day of Kwanzaa, friends and family gather for the traditional candlelighting ceremony. A table is set with a straw place mat, ears of corn, gifts and the Kwanzaa candleholder (Kinara) with red, black and green candles, black in the center. After a toast from the unity cup, one candle per night is lit, starting with black, then alternating green and red; left then right. With each candle, the principle for that day is recited. On the sixth evening, the Karamu or "Feast," is held. On this night, the whole family gathers to share food, gifts, and to strengthen unity.

The McDonald's family hopes that you and your family will enjoy the spirit of Kwanzaa all year long.

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Billboard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

TEANECK — The American Stage Company presents the play "Angel Street" through Dec. 19. Call (201) 892-7744 for information.

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Stage presents the play "Uncle John's Christmas Story" Call (609) 884-1341 for information.

NEW YORK — The Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant presents Rachelle Ferrell and Her R&B Band through Dec. 19, 9 p.m. (212) 475-8592.

NEW YORK — The Film Forum presents the theatrical premiere of life of queer singer Vera Bill in "Black and White in Colour" Call (212) 827-3305 for information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Crossroads Theater presents the play "Play On" through Dec. 19. Call (732) 249-5500 for information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The George Street Playhouse presents the play "Down the Garden Path" through Dec. 19. Call (908) 771-7177 for information.

NETCONG — The Growing Stage Theater presents the play "The Story of the Nutcracker" Call (973) 347-4548.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

WATCHHUNG — The Watching Arts Center presents the play "The Watchman" and "The Watchman's Wife" 8 p.m. (908) 732-1000.

NEWARK — Club B presents jazz band Inner Space, part of Thursday Jazz, 9 p.m. (212) 475-8592.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

SAYREVILLE — Club B presents The Machine performing songs by legendary rock group Pink Floyd, 10 p.m. (732) 727-3000.

NEW YORK — The Beacon Theater presents Bobby Caldwell and Patti Austin, 8 p.m. (212) 496-7070.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

SAYREVILLE — Club B presents legendary singer John Vally, 9 p.m. (732) 727-3000.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) presents top singer Savion Glover, 8 p.m. (1-888-GO-NJPAC).

SUNBURY — The Union County Board of Chosen-Freshness presents "Angels Gather Here," an evening of carols and spirituals for the holiday season starting The Concord Singers and special guest the "Nashville Boys" Chorus. Church of the Apostles, 7 p.m. (908) 464-2520.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

SAYREVILLE — Club B presents entertainment singer Big Boy Fashion Show at Club B, 6:30 a.m. (732) 727-3000.

TRENTION — The War Memorial Theater presents the award winning production of "The Nutcracker" 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (732) 249-1244.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

NEW YORK — The Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant presents the Marc C. Lewis special guest, Northrup K. Lewis, part of Monday Nights at The Blue Note, Call (212) 475-8592 for information.

NEW YORK — Mid-American Productions presents bassist Eugene Levinson at the West Rectal Hall located inside Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m. (212) 239-4659.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

NEW YORK — The Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant presents saxophonist Tom Scott and The LA Express through Dec. 26, 9 p.m. (212) 475-8592.

NEW YORK — Mid-American Productions presents pianist Jonathan Feldman, vocalist Tony Apollo, and percussionist Daniel Drumman at West Rectal Hall located inside Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m. (212) 239-4659.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) presents the St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet with its production of "Nutcracker on Ice" through Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. (1-888-GO-NJPAC).

NEW YORK — Mid-American Productions presents violinist Yoko Takaki at West Rectal Hall located inside Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m. (212) 239-4659.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

NEWARK — Club B presents jazz singer Denise Hamilton, part of Thursday Jazz, 8 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

NEW YORK — The Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant presents Will Calhoun and featuring Bobby Watson, part of Monday Nights at The Blue Note, Call (212) 475-8592.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

NEW YORK — The Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant presents Regina Belle through Jan. 3, 9 p.m. (212) 475-8592.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YORK — The Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant presents a special New Year's Eve show starring Regina Belle and Dariusz Gajdzis, 7:30 p.m. (212) 475-8592.

No rotten apples in new flick "The Cedar House Rules"

The Cedar House Rules (Miramax Films/R) (2 hours)
Cast: Tobey Maguire, Charlize Theron, Delroy Lindo, Paul Rudd, Michael Caine, Jane Alexander, Kieran Culkin, Heavy D, Erykah Badu, Kathy Baker, K. Todd Freeman, Paz De La Huerta
Director: Lasse Hallstrom

Director Lasse Hallstrom, whose credits include "Whose Eating Gilbert Grape" and "My Life As A Dog" brings to life a compelling drama told through the pages of John Irving's bestselling novel, "The Cedar House Rules." Filled with thought-provoking questions and challenging the moral actions of society both then (in the 1930s and 1940s) when the story takes place and now, this shines as a true quality film with quality actors, both old and new.

The story takes place during the cold, autumn and winter seasons, when the children of an orphanage, including the main character and orphan character Homer Wells (Tobey Maguire), run away from through New England colonial home set. Amid a landscape crisp with the rustling of leaves, the movie, watching Homer grow becomes a newborn orphanage has trouble finding a safe home and grows up at the orphanage (orming a father-to-son like bond with the orphanage's doc-



Erykah Badu with Charlize Theron in Lasse Hallstrom's "The Cedar House Rules." Photo by Stephen Vaughn

tor, Dr. Wilbur Larch (Michael Caine). Eventually Homer becomes a big brother figure to the younger orphans and develops his skill as a doctor under Larch's tutelage. Soon, the boy becomes a man and decides to leave the orphanage one day with a couple who seek the medical services of Dr. Larch.

The couple, Wally Worthington (Erykah Badu), Muddy (K. Todd Freeman), Peaches Kendall (Charlize Theron), help Homer adjust to life outside the orphanage by getting him a job picking apples for Wally's parents. It is here that he meets five migrant workers: Mr. Rose (Delroy Lindo), who is the boss;

Homer's thoughts on following in Dr. Larch's footsteps, performing abortions, and finding love.

Tobey Maguire, known for his performance in "Hide With The Devil," gives a commanding performance between his boyish charm and dynamic dialogue. Charlize Theron ("That Thing You Do," "Mighty Joe Young," "The Astronaut's Wife") is also fit for her role as the flirtatious fiancée whose loneliness leads her to the arms of Homer. Michael Caine stands out and adds the depth that characterizes the movie's authenticity as a quality piece of work. Delroy Lindo adds another emotional dimension with his performance. And Erykah Badu will surprise audiences who think she's just another music artist trying to make movies without acting ability. Badu successfully portrays the sincerity and seriousness of her character's situation, without overacting or underacting in this role.

This movie overall is a standout among this year's roster of films to see. This well-written screenplay, written by John Irving, elicits emotions and questions that few films fail to do these days. For anyone looking for something different at the movies, this movie is it.

NAACP Image Awards announce nominations

Earlier this month the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Image Awards production office announced the nomination for best performance in television, movies, music, and literature.

The "Best Man" pulled in nine nominations for Outstanding Motion Picture, Outstanding Actor (Morris Chestnut, Taye Diggs), Outstanding Actress (Dia Long, Monica Calhoun), Outstanding Supporting Actor (Harold Perrineau Jr., Terrence Howard) and Outstanding Supporting Actress (Samantha Lathan, Melissa de Sousa).

"Light It Up" received three nods, including Outstanding Actress for Rosario Dawson and Outstanding Supporting Actress for Vanessa L. Williams.

Denzel Washington and Debbi Morgan were nominated for their roles in "Hurricane," which also received three nominations.

In Television, "The Steve Harvey Show" received five nominations for Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series (Steve Harvey), Outstanding Supporting Actor (Gedric "The Entertainer"), and Outstanding Supporting Actress (Wendy Raquel Robinson, Terri J. Vaughn).

"A Lesson Before Dying" received four nominations, including Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie/Mini-Series/Dramatic Special (Don Cheadle, Mekhi Phifer) and Outstanding Actress in a Television Movie/Mini-Series/Dramatic Special (Cecily Tyson). Lisa Nicole Carson, Lucy Liu, and Jesse L. got nominations for their roles in "Ally McBeal," as did Brandy, Countess Vaughn, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Marcus T. Paulk for "Moesha," D.L. Hughley, Elise Neal, and Ashley Clark for "The Hughleys," and "The Young and the Restless" for Kristoff St. John, Shemar Moore, Seina Givens, and Tonya Lee Williams.

In music, Eric Benet and TLC tied with four nominations each. Benet was nominated for Outstanding Song ("Spend My Life With You") both songwriter and Performer, and Outstanding Album ("A Day in the Life"). TLC racked up nominations for Outstanding Duo or Group, Outstanding Music Video ("No Scrubs"), "Unstoppable," and Outstanding Album ("Fanmail"). Lauryn Hill, Quincy Jones, and Will Smith each followed with three nominations each.

In literature, each person nominated received only one nomination. Nikki Giovanni was nominated for Outstanding Literary Work, Poetry for her book "Blues: For All The Changes." Iyanla Vanzant was nominated for Outstanding Literary Work, Non-fiction for "Yesterday, I Grieved."



Denzel Washington



Will Smith



Vanessa Williams



Taye Diggs



Lauryn Hill

Savion Glover to appear at NJPAC

Savion Glover will give a December 18 performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark at 8 p.m. in the Prudential Hall theater.

Joining him will be special guests Buster Brown, Jimmy Slyde, Dianne Walker and Carter Williams in his brand new production, "Savion! In Concert Evolutions," as part of the NJPAC PSEEG Holiday Celebration.

Glover is best known as the tap prodigy who performed in "Tap," with Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis Jr. He also rose to fame for his ensemble, "Stomp."



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Saturday, December 18

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Bahamod/Banquet Hall • 3:30-5:00pm

KWANZAA TRADITIONS
Learn about Kwanzaa traditions from our guests. From North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Community Room • 1:30-4:00pm

STORY ROOM
Listen to African tales from our storytellers featuring Denise Howell Brister and Patrick Sengwa and Raymond Alford.
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Specialist 1 & 2
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Assist the division director in the management of the activities of the division, supervisor staff related to the early childhood program and monitor the School Review Improvement Team. Duties include reviewing and assessing district budgets, monitor district plans for compliance with state and federal requirements and enforce and enforce district plans in the face of court orders. Please forward resumes no later than December 28, 1999. Applications received after closing date will be considered if position is not filled.

EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST 1 & 2
Salary \$53,351.10 - \$73,850.15
P#3: \$68,172.44 - \$66,372.82

Perform assigned duties to assist in the implementation of quality early childhood programs primarily in the Abbott districts, monitor and assess the implementation of the School Review Improvement Team. Duties include reviewing and assessing district budgets, monitor district plans for compliance with state and federal requirements and enforce and enforce district plans in the face of court orders. Please forward resumes no later than December 28, 1999. Applications received after closing date will be considered if position is not filled.

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Barkley's career comes to an end

In the city where it began, Charles Barkley's NBA career ended last week in Philadelphia. Vying for a loose ball, Barkley landed awkwardly and ruptured the quadriceps tendon in his left knee, an injury which most medical experts characterized as career-threatening. In view of Barkley's October 24 announcement that this season would be his last, the injury effectively ended the career of one of the most candid, controversial and sometimes outrageous professional athletes of his generation.

Greg Moore

I'll miss Sir Charles. I'll miss the unique, one-of-a-kind nature of the man and his game. As a man, first and foremost, for better or for worse, Barkley was honest. Brutally so. Some of his remarks, gestures and conduct may have gotten him into hot water from time to time, but Barkley always redeemed himself with his authenticity. The master of the sound bite, unlike many stars today, Barkley eschewed the canned, scripted answer. When dealing with Barkley, it was advisable to expect the unexpected. In the mold of his idol Muhammad Ali,

Barkley boldly spoke his mind, and at the end of the day, people respected him for it. Charles was that rare Black athlete who was accorded the treatment which white athletes frequently enjoy when they misbehave. Over the years, Barkley has said and done things which other Black athletes would have been crucified for. But Barkley always seemed to bounce back. Like his Caucasian bad boy predecessors such as Babe Ruth, Billy Martin, and John Riggins, many of Barkley's misdeeds were dismissed with a "boys will be boys" explanation. Think about it: what's more deplorable, a Black man choking a White coach, or a Black man spitting (albeit accidentally) on a little White girl? Well, the answer can be found in the fact that many fans and writers have yet to, and may never forgive Latrell Sprewell for his transgression. But as for Barkley's infamous spitting incident, Sir Charles' odious act appears to have faded from memory.

A function of time you say? Perhaps. But the essence of Barkley's appeal resides directly in his candor. Americans in general appreciate when someone levels with them. And although his honesty could make you squirm and wince, Charles Barkley leveled with fans and members of the media throughout his career. For this, Barkley frequently extended a special type of grace to fans and media alike. The sort of grace we extend to a guy from the neighborhood whose been in and out of trouble, but who we know is essentially good at heart. Barkley has heart. An essentially good one. It's on his sleeve for all to see. And it was that huge heart which made him such a great player.

As a player, Los Angeles Laker GM Jerry West put it best when he characterized Barkley as one of the most unique players in basketball history. I've read Sir Charles' whose papers list as 6-5 (an exaggeration) or 6-6 (a flat-out lie). Barkley was 6-4. Period. At his height, when you think about all that Barkley could do on a basketball court, Sir Charles has to be considered one of the greatest athletes ever to play in a league known for its extraordinary athletes.

Barkley may be one of only three guys to score over 20,000 points, grab more than 10,000 rebounds and dish out over 4,000 assists, but he will unfortunately be remembered as a great player who could not win the big one. Like contemporaries such as Patrick Ewing and Karl Malone, Barkley did not deserve to win a championship. However, this fact hardly makes Barkley a loser, but a victim of time and circumstance. The guys who collected to most rings during his era (Magic, Bird, and Jordan) were frankly better players with better teams.

Charles Barkley is essentially just a country boy who extracted every ounce of ability out his body, and accomplished more in the game of basketball than anyone could have ever expected from a shy, overweight kid from Leeds, Alabama.

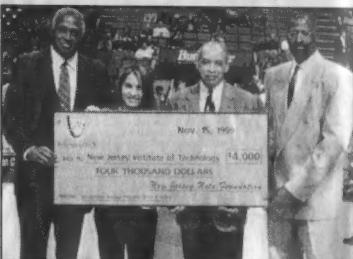
Questions and comments to the editor should be directed to Gregory Moore@citynews.com

Fitting climax to a new NCAA rivalry



Montclair State University tailback Ron Lewis runs the last few yards to a touchdown against Rowan University on Dec. 4, setting a new Montclair State record of 17 touchdowns in a season. Rowan won the Division III playoff game by a score of 41-13.

Nets award scholarship to Newark's Magali Camacho



L-R Nets Senior Vice President Willis Reed, student Magali Camacho, V.P. for Academic & Student Services of NJIT Joel Bloom, Nets center Michael Cage.

EAST RUTHERFORD — NJIT freshman Magali Camacho, a native of Newark, New Jersey, was recently presented with a New Jersey Nets Scholarship during a Nets home game versus the Seattle SuperSonics.

The \$4,000 Nets Scholarship, to be paid over the course of four years, was presented on behalf of the New Jersey Nets Foundation through the team's Community Youth Organization. The CYO awarded \$200,000 in scholarship money last season to deserving students from New Jersey who plan to attend or are currently attending in-state universities as well as two or four-year colleges.

"The Nets organization has always been committed to being a pro-active member of the community and fostering the development of area youth," said Nets President Michael Rowe. "This is the second year of the Nets Scholarship Program, and we are pleased to provide a needed financial boost to a diversified

number of college-bound students in our community."

A 1999 graduate of Essex County Technical and Vocational High School, Magali earned a GPA of 3.84 and ranked #1 in her graduating class. She is currently a freshman at NJIT, majoring in Computer Engineering. In high school, Magali was president of the computer club.

Recipients of the Nets Scholarship are chosen on the basis of financial need, academic performance and community service. The student must have graduated from a New Jersey high school within the past two years and must maintain institutional GPA conditions set by their chosen university or college.

Qualifying institutions need to match the \$1,000 scholarship amount, provide a mentor for the recipient and involve the Nets in the selection process. The eleven participating institutions are Bloomfield College, Essex County College, Hudson County Community College, New

Bill to protect student athletes from sports agent contracts

TRENTON — The Assembly Consumer Affairs and Regulated Professions Committee recently passed legislation that would protect student athletes and regulate sports agents' contracts. The bill is sponsored by Assemblyman LeRoy J. Jones Jr.

"Student athletes shouldn't be taken advantage of by unscrupulous agents," said Jones (D-Essex). "All contracts will have to include in clear writing that signing on the dotted line means giving up playing for your school."

The measure (A-2525), also known as the "Athletes Agent Act," would require athlete contracts to include in bold face letters a section that explains that signing the contract would forgo any further student athlete eligibility. It also defines a sports agent and any conflicts of interest for agents who represent players. It prohibits any agent from

approaching or making contact with a student athlete unless initiated by the student or school. It prohibits agents from giving payment or gifts to student athletes. It also states that a student athlete may rescind the contract within 15 days of signing.

Agents "shouldn't be allowed to have a stake in the team or sport when they represent players," said Jones. "Certain protections need to be made for athletes so that there can be a level playing field."

"Agents like to prey on student athletes because they might not know their rights," said Jones. "This measure makes agents responsible for their actions and prohibits them from hanging out at the local gyms and giving out business cards. It also says to a student athlete that if they want to change their minds, they have the right to go back to school."

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